LEARNING / H1
Rethinking the design of public schools

BUSINESS / B9
All sold in the twinkling of an iPhone4

BUSINESS / B5
RP firms score high on corporate governance

ENTERTAINMENT / G1
Ogie gets busy as OPM president

SPORTS / A22
PBA season opens; Bolts shock Gins

Archbishop Cruz gives President Aquino a 'C'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF PRESIDENT Aquino were to receive a report card for his first 100 days in office, it would show a passing mark of "C" or 75, retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz said.

ARCHBISHOP A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 4, 2010 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 298 P18

Fraternity offers reward for info on attackers

By Marlon Ramos and DJ Yap

A FRATERNITY based at Ateneo Law School has put up a P200,000 reward for information that will lead to the identification of those behind the grenade attack on the last day of bar examinations on Sept. 26, which left 47 wounded.

The Fraternal Order of Utopia yesterday

FRATERNITY A4

Civil disobedience still a CBCP option

CBCP/MAR

Bishops say they have moral authority to call for action

TRIBAL LOOK Boys in tribal attire hold lizard toys in a dance contest of the Tahuid (Petal) Festival on Newport Boulevard in Pasay City. The event is a tribute to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, known for sending flowers as a sign of granted petitions or prayers.

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

AS CHURCH and State moved to avert a collision, Catholic bishops yesterday said civil disobedience remained "a moral option" for Catholics if the Aquino administration pushed for the distribution of artificial contraceptives to couples who want to use them.

The bishops said they had the moral authority to call for such an action if the government promoted an action contrary to the teachings of the Church.

"The Catholic Church in the Philippines can do that if it decides to do that because for one thing, civil disobedience is a moral option, one of the moral options," said Msgr. Juanito Figura, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Figura made the statement in an interview with the CBCP

CIVIL/A10

RH bill fight may damage Church

By Amando Doronila

THE CONFLICT between the Aquino administration and the Catholic Church over birth control legislation has entered the stage of a "phoney war" following a meeting between President Aquino and the bishops on Friday in which they decided to scale down the fiery rhetoric over the reproductive health (RH) bills in Congress.

ANALYSIS

By phoney war, I am referring to a phase in early World War II, the period between the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the invasion of France, Belgium, the Netherlands in May 1940.

The Battle of France sailed what Churchill called "The Twilight War," what journalists termed "der Sitzkrieg" ("the sitting war," in German) and the French called "drôle de guerre" ("strange war").

RH BILL/A10

'Some pretend place where bluebirds sing'

(Editor's Note: The writer is an academic supervisor of Marian School of Quezon City and a critic of public school textbooks.)

By Antonio Calipjo Go

Contributor

(First of two parts)

BY MEANS of an article published in the Inquirer on Feb. 2, 2009, I listed the 77 errors (out of more than 700) I had discovered in "English for You and Me," a public school textbook in Reading for Grade 6 written by Elsalie Cada and published by Book Wise Publishing House.

COMMENTARY

In the same issue, Socorro Pilor, executive director of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS) of the Department of Education (DepEd), defended the book that her agency approved, saying "it passed with flying colors a rigid, multistage evaluation process, it passed the final evaluation of an editorial board from Ateneo de Manila University, and it was also evaluated and approved by academicians from prestigious universities."

Then Education Secretary Jesli Lapus also defended the book, saying that "some of the alleged errors are poetry so it's not grammatical. The book experts are saying you can just any book in the bookstore and someone would still find mistakes there in style or usage of words. So it's relative. And then it will boil down to what you, the author, wanted to convey in the end, it still boil down to your credentials. Because I can tell you 'Your credentials are no

SOME/A17

Poor households turned into small businesses

By DJ Yap

POOR FARMERS of Cagayan City were trapped in a cycle.

Money from rice or corn trickled in only at the end of every harvest. For the rest of the planting calendar, the families waited, penniless or in debt as of the next cycle.

Then came a livelihood project with a big heart and ambition, and a business plan.

For the past four years, Kaliwanagang Pamahandi sa Mindanao Foundation Inc. (KPMFI) has been converting poor households in the rural communities of Misamis Orien

POOR/A20

Marikina shoes fight cheap imports

A MUSEUM displaying the famed shoe collection of ex-first lady Imelda Marcos has reopened in Marikina, heralding a return fight by its beleaguered shoe industry against a flood of cheap imports.

The museum is not just a showcase of the best of Imelda Marcos' 3,800-pair collection, but also of the craftsmanship in shoemaking in the eastern Metro Manila city where the industry was born over a century ago.

A business consultant, Tessie Rodriga, said Imelda Marcos failed to provide the Marikina shoe industry with much-needed infrastructure or financing when she was in power. But she did help in her own way.

"She did patronize local brands. If she liked a certain style, she would buy a dozen pairs," recalled Rodriga, who had worked with the Bureau of Product Standards.

WORLD'S largest shoes on display at a Marikina mall.

Marikina shoes were once famous, both locally and abroad, until low-priced footwear from countries like China and Vietnam flooded the industry over the years, said Jose Tejares, a local business leader.

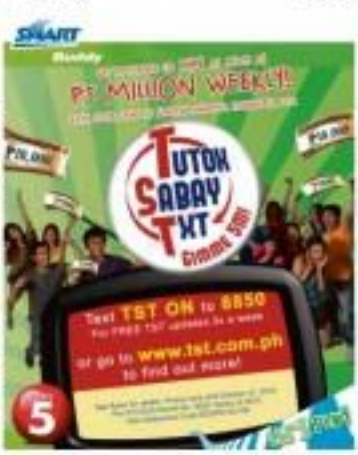
"You buy Marikina-made shoes and use them for five years. You buy Chinese shoes for one fifth the price but you can only use them for a few months," said Tejares, the head of the Marikina Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dolly Borlongan, a former curator of the shoe museum, conceded most of Imelda Marcos' shoes were imported but added there were many Marikina shoes among her collection.

The museum was set up in 1998 as just one more way for Marikina to advertise its manufacturing history of making footwear, from humble slippers to rugged work boots to high-fashion custom shoes.

The city has also built the

MARIKINA/A11



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8 8 3

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
8 12 28 37 41 49
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Honasan, Enrile see end of 'jueteng' probe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE is not too keen on extending its "jueteng" probe because the issue has come down to two choices for the Aquino administration—undertake an all-out war against the illegal numbers game or legalize it.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said he and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) observed their optimism that jueteng could still be eradicated.

"It's down to two choices and it's time for the government to make a choice," Honasan said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said the Senate had done its part in bringing the issues involving jueteng to public scrutiny and debate.

Last month, Cruz read a list of jueteng lords and protectors in the Senate while Santiago wanted her own list in a privilege speech.

Cruz named Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno and retired Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa as top beneficiaries of jueteng money, as well as retired Bureau Supt. Rey Caduyacda.

The list showed that Puno and Verzosa were allegedly receiving every month P5 million to P8 million each in exchange for allowing jueteng operations to continue.

Enrile, who was for the legalization of jueteng, said the bank uncovered in the hearings should be left for the police to investigate.

"If some people there are blind to this bracket and plaintiff, that is their problem," he said.

It was during the hearing that PCSO Chair Jose Ferdinand Rivas revealed that at least three Small Town Lottery (STL) operators who were also on Santiago's list.

They were Cezar Reyes of Bisaya gan Enhanced Technology Systems, Eddie Gonzales Dimo, etto Corp. in Quezon, and Elmer Segumiranon of Ayers Gaming and Amusement Corp. in Agusan del Norte.

Segumiranon was tagged as a jueteng lord in Bicol which prompted Enrile to say that he was "sprinkling hot soup."

Reyes said jueteng lords had pressured the jueteng-killer STL because "there was no ticket ownership of applicants to operate [the] STL."

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the Senate should move to strengthen the country's anti-money laundering laws as it was revealed during the investigation that the government was helping losing bettors get payoffs and kickbacks in the illegal numbers game because authorities had to get the suspects' permission before their bank accounts could be scrutinized.

Despite arrest, mayor insists no numbers racket in Angeles City

By Jun Madrig
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—Police arrested a suspected "jueteng" bet collector in San Jose Sil. lage here last week despite Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan's insistence that the illegal numbers game was not operating in this city.

Ian Carlos, 21, was arrested while collecting jueteng bets from residents at noon on Sept. 28, a police report said.

The report said an informant went to a police station to complain about the alleged "pasalubong" of collections in Barangay San Jose.

Accompanied by the informant, policemen went to the village and saw Carlos taking money from a resident and jotting down the latter's chosen number combination on yellow "papeleta" (sheets of paper).

Carlos failed to present an identification card when policemen sought it so they let him accompany the policemen to Small Town Lottery (STL) in the city.

Recovered from him were jueteng bet sheets and P200 in bet money.

Pamintuan said the city government has been waging a campaign against "bookies" operations for the STL. The bookies use the STL as cover for jueteng operations.

"These are underground and vice was allowed by us. By law, we order a crackdown and confiscate arrests," he said.

"Like prostitution, [illegal gambling] is not allowed but it exists all over the world.... so bookies against or jueteng bet collectors and operators are arrested," he said.

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Execs told: Keep off May books of voters

DON'T TOUCH the books of voters used during the automated elections in May.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued this strict instruction to poll officers as the barangay elections draw near and hearings on the petition by defeated vice presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Roxas II before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) continue.

In a resolution, the Comelec said it was temporarily modifying procedures in the disposition of the newly approved applications for registration of barangay voters to preserve the books of voters during the May 10 polls.

"For purposes of the barangay elections, only the Election Day Computerized Voters List shall be used by the board of election tellers in the precinct where who shall be allowed to vote and in recording the fact of voting or voting history," it said.

Applications for registration, reactivation or change of name of voters, among others, for the upcoming balloting shall be temporarily suspended in respective localities and shall be arranged by precincts, the Comelec said.

The synchronized barangay and long-pending Sangguniang Kabataan elections will be held on Oct. 25 to more than 40,000 barangays across the country, Jocelyn R. Uy

DSWD to expand cash program for poor

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WITH THE SUPPORT of both the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the World Bank, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) plans to expand the coverage of its conditional cash transfer, or CCT program from one million poor families this year to four million in 2012.

Rosanna Tobias, Unicef representative here, said the UN-attached agency was committed to supporting the program by ensuring the services are there so families can comply with its terms.

"Positive (preventive) policies, like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the CCT, should be sustained and elevated to reach all poor households, taking care to target those most deprived and hard to reach," Tobias said.

The official spoke during the recent launch of the "Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities: The Case of the Philippines," a new, in-depth report of the joint undertaking of Unicef and two Philippine government agencies—the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

But Tobias stressed, "We must do more. We must ensure that we don't leave out those families who are hard to reach or under the radar of national registration schemes. Those living under bridges, or along rivers or in far-flung mountain areas must not be left out."

The DSWD has allotted P21 billion for its CCT program in 2011, an amount almost double the P12 billion set aside for the program this year.

The CCT, which gives 2.3 million poor families a monthly stipend of up to P1,400, is part of the P29.2-billion Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the DSWD.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said the agency was to the process of identifying the 2.3 million household beneficiaries of the program in 2011 through its National Household Targeting System. There are about 4.1 million poor families nationwide.

Over 44 percent of Filipino children aged 11 and below live in poverty, according to the two-year Unicef-PIDS-NSCB study.

Dimensions of poverty

The 306-page report, which Unicef released on Sept. 30, also disclosed that "over the past two decades, the well-being of Filipino children below 15 years old has been deteriorating."

"The estimated number of children in poverty, which now stands at 12.9 million, is almost the same in magnitude and character as the 1985 level, suggesting greater disparities in poverty incidence across regions and between urban and rural areas," said the report.

The report also said that "poverty incidence among children residing in rural areas is more than twice that of children living in urban areas."

Many Filipino children "do not only suffer from income poverty but also from other dimensions of poverty, such as deprivations in terms of food, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation facilities, and information," it said.

The largest number of poor children can be found in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (69.3 percent of more than 830,000 children), Caraga (67.8 percent of over 306,000 children), Mimaropa (65.5 percent of more than 675,000 children), Ilocos (62 percent of over 963,000 children).

Other findings

"The child poverty rate in the All-MM (at least three that of Metro Manila ...The rate in Cordillera is only half that of its neighboring Mimaropa... The number of poor children in Ilocos is about six fold the number in the Cordillera Administrative Region," the study also said.

Other Unicef-PIDS-NSCB findings:

• The percentage of undocumented children is highest in Ilocol (33.6 percent), the Zamboanga Peninsula (33.3 percent), Mimaropa (30.1 percent), Eastern Visayas (32.1 percent) and Western Visayas (31.9 percent).

• The malnutrition prevalence rate among children increased from 26.6 percent in 2008 to 26.3 percent in 2009.

• From 1.8 million in 2002, the number of out-of-school children rose up to 2.2 million in 2007. The most commonly cited reasons were "lack of personal interest and high cost of education."

The net enrollment rate is lowest in Western Visayas (74.5 rate), followed by Cagayan Valley (76.2 percent), CARAGA (76.6 percent), Davao provinces (78 percent) and the Cotabato provinces (79.3 percent).

• Metro Manila has the highest number of children facing severe deprivation of shelter (over 78,400), followed by Central Luzon (more than 63,500), Southern Tagalog (over 57,600), Ilocol (26,000 plus) and Central Visayas (more than 20,100).

'Wake-up call'

Tobias said 44 percent of Filipino children living in poverty was "too high."

"We can and we must take steps to bring that figure down significantly," she said.

She called the Unicef-PIDS-NSCB findings a "wake-up call for all those in the Philippines who care about achieving the Millennium Development Goals and reducing poverty among children."

Pinoy seaman freed

A FILIPINO seaman kidnapped by Nigerian bandits near the Cameroon border last month was released from captivity on Friday, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Wilson Vitales and a Cameroon co-worker, both crew members of the Belgian vessel Amazing Empress, were freed unharmed and are now in the custody of Jan de Nul, the Belgian principal of the ship involved in dredging operations in the port city of Douala.

The two were taken on Sept. 11.

In nearby Danalia, 41 Filipino seamen are still being held by pirates. Cynthia B. Balana

Archbishop Cruz gives President Aquino a 'C'

from page A1

Bishop Oscar Cruz said yesterday.

Oct. 7 marks Mr. Aquino's 100th day as President. "I was expecting more. I was hoping for more but after some time, his performance proved to be rather weak," Cruz told the faithful in a phone interview yesterday.

But he was still expecting that the President would improve and continue learning his job in the next six years.

"Hopefully, he would improve," said the retired archbishop.

A militant group also found Mr. Aquino's first 100 days in office a "disappointment," saying he let scandals and infighting among the members of his political family sideline his project of reforming the government.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), an umbrella group of militant organizations, said the "bustos" of yellow," the goodwill that propelled him to office, may be fading in the absence of accomplishments.

Mr. Aquino won with a large margin over his rivals in the May elections on the promise of transparency, good governance and reforms. But the President has made little headway in fulfilling these pledges, Bayan said in a statement.

Cruz gave a number of reasons for giving Mr. Aquino a poor score. Mr. Aquino's Truth Commission, trumpeted as the key to the resolution of graft and corruption committed by his predecessor, has been floating "on thin air" on the Supreme Court has yet to decide on its constitutionality, Cruz noted.

Neither was he impressed with the President's apparent trouble fixing a divided Cabinet and his move to split into "two heads" the Department of the Interior and Local Government, an agency which has a crucial role in eradicating "jueteng," an illegal numbers racket.

It was found out following proceedings from the bungled hostage rescue on Aug. 23 that Mr. Aquino had given the authority to administer police affairs to his close friend, Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno.

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, which Mr. Aquino had to fix it as "acting" capacity, was left to handle matters concerning local government units.

"One of the elementary norms of management is you put the right person in the right place," Cruz said, but he quickly added that he was not teaching Mr. Aquino what he should do.

"It is clear that Sec. Puno is not meant for that place, not only because he said he did not know anything about hostage-taking but he is now suspected of being (a recipient) of jueteng payola," said Cruz, the head of the People's Crusade Against Jueteng.

Last month, the 79-year-old archbishop said that several officials of the Aquino administration were receiving payoffs from jueteng operators.

In making the grade, Cruz wondered how Mr. Aquino easily got rid of the use of sirens and blinkers among private vehicles as well as traffic counterflow and yet he was ostensibly failing to put order on the rise of jueteng in the country.

But the passing mark of 75 did not reflect the President's stance on artificial birth control and other hot-button family-planning the archbishop said.

"I don't hold it against him because he is just merely a journalist," he said. The "cold-print" for the editorial, Cruz noted, were the pharmaceutical companies that manufactured these contraceptives and were making money out of the ongoing debate.

With a report from Kristine L. Alave

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We find ways

Energy agencies blame each other for Mindanao brownouts

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY officials are blaming each other for the recurring brownouts in Mindanao.

The state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) yesterday maintained that the brownouts were not due to power supply shortage, as alleged by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

Napocor, a government-owned corporation, maintains power plants that may be dispatched into the grid by NGCP, a private corporation, that transmits electricity from generators to distribution utilities and bulk power users.

"We would like to categorically state that there is no problem with power supply in and the available power plants are committed. All hydropower plants, from Agus to Pulangi, are back to their normal operational levels," Napocor said yesterday in a statement.

The water level at Lake Lanao was back to its optimal level, thus operations of six hydropower plants were also back to normal, it added.

These hydropower facilities in Mindanao were reportedly generating at least 738 megawatts (MW).

"The current power outages being experienced by the Mindanao Grid today may be due to other reasons," Napocor said.

Mindanao continues to experience rotating brownouts lasting up to five hours by certain areas. In September alone, the deficit reached as much as 137 MW. As of last Saturday, the Mindanao grid posted a supply deficit of only 53 MW.

"The power plants nominate their available capacities to the system operator, which is under the NGCP which is then responsible for dispatch (or nomination of power). However, what parties do is to offer when the plants are [illegible] at a certain level of dispatch, the actual [illegible] is lower than what are nominated," the statement said.

For example, the Pulangi Hydroelectric plant, which can generate as much as 85 MW, was transmitting only 60 MW.

The NGCP, however, had already strongly contested these allegations on Friday, saying that no energy highways in Mindanao can store their nominations the actual power flow.

Over the weekend, NGCP spokesperson Cynthia Perez Alabastro again said that the NGCP could not be blamed for the power problem because its lines were sufficient and could handle the entire energy load in the area, contrary to the allegations of Napocor.

Alabastro insisted anew that there was clearly a power supply shortage.

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Review of all immigration deals ordered

By Jerome Aning

THE ACTING HEAD of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) has ordered a review of all contracts entered into by his predecessor, including the granting of contracts renewal arrival-departure cards that bear the picture of President Aquino.

Immigration officer in charge Ronaldo Ledesma said the government does not usually spend a single centavo for printing the immigration cards that arriving and departing passengers are required to fill up at the airport.

The supplier merely relies on income from advertisements printed on allotted portions of the cards, he said.

"At any rate, we are reviewing the contract to check if there are indeed irregularities as alleged by some sectors," Ledesma said.

Under his predecessor, Marcelino Libanan, Ledesma said the bureau entered into the contract last year with the supplier, e-Bisnal Inc., for the printing of the immigration cards. The production need to be handled by the Airline Operators Council.

The new cards, which are machine readable, have been in use since Jan. 1. There became the focus of media attention after President Aquino received his photo printed on them upon his return from the United States recently.

Mr. Aquino immediately ordered his pictures removed from the card. The BI promptly informed the supplier of the presidential directive.

In a statement, Ledesma said the review was meant to ensure that the contracts "do not cause undue harm" to the government and the public.

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INDIRECT INITIATIVE

3 groups file gun ban bill

By TJ Burgonio

THREE GROUPS have filed a bill in Congress banning the carrying of guns by unauthorized persons in public places through a petition for indirect initiative, confident of its passage even if President Aquino is a gun enthusiast.

If some of the gun owners think a president's organization (PO) has swarmed in the mode of petition for indirect initiative available under Republic Act No. 6735, to get a measure enacted by Congress.

"This is another use to the law. We look at it as people proposing a legislation to Congress directly," Sherwin Calvario, secretary general of the Kapatirang Baril Ng Oldpoy, one of the three petitioners, said in an interview.

The petition has drawn fresh "con dicksky of pushing a bill" without a lawmaker sponsor in Congress, he said.

Calvario, Ma. Adelin Pisante of Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc. and Leonardo Montemayor of SBA, a party-list group, have asked the House of Representatives to enact their bill seeking to regulate the bearing of firearms in public places.

Under the law, the initiative bill goes through the same legislative process as any ordinary piece of legislation, but has procedures over ordinary measures pending in committee.

Rules body

It has been referred to the House committee on rules. Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III and Sen. Francis Escudero have signified to act as "floor leaders" of the bill, sid said.

Under RA 6735, the Referendum and Initiative Act, a PO can file a petition for indirect initiative with Congress, containing the salient points of a bill it wants to get enacted into law.

The petitioners are confident that Mr. Aquino, a gun enthusiast, would be converted to endorse the bill, and complete the "unfinished" legacy of his mother, the late President Corazon C. Aquino.

"There will be a conversion," hurried the "friendly" Bishops of Golden Society, one of the many organizations of the petitioner, said in an interview. This, he added, would not affect the President's hobby of target shooting.

Calvario said: "The President may be a gun enthusiast but we have to understand that the Citizen Protection Act of 2010 does not take away from the individual to own a licensed firearm. But it should only be kept at home."

Should it become a law, Mr. Aquino could still bring his gun from home to a shooting range. What it seeks to prohibit is the carrying of firearms in public by individuals not authorized by law, he said.

"There should be a realization from him that this will be better for this country. Who will deny it will benefit from this bill? Ninety-eight percent of Filipinos will immediately benefit," Calvario said, pointing out that there are one million licensed and one million unlicensed fire arms.

If at all, even Olympic shooter Antonio Margayoga and former Philippine National Police Director Leonard Imperial have signed the petition, along with dozen former senators, the clergy led by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and the Jesuit Pastoral Council for Responsible Mining.

In the end, it all boils down to the issue of whether this is good for the country or not, according to Calvario.

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Fraternity offers reward

Previous page 4 |

condemned "in the strongest terms the irresponsible act of the perpetrators" outside De La Salle University venue of the bar exams.

"Ubupia hopes that those responsible for this unforgivable crime will soon be apprehended and brought to justice. Ubupia commends all and anyone in the ongoing investigation being continued by the Supreme Court," Ti-apin said in a statement.

The blast occurred during the traditional revelry on Taft Avenue called "tablabog" to greet the law graduates who had just finished the grueling exams. Two of the 47 injured lost their limbs.

The Manila Police District (MPD) has yet to name a suspect in the blast, and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Supreme Court have each started a parallel probe.

Boy National C. Bocang, a Ubupia member, said he was from his University had been wounded in the blast, but its members were very concerned over the gruesome violence.

"We were also in that celebration (meeting place) for the tablabog. It could very well have been us who got hurt," he said in a phone interview.

Bocang said Ubupia decided to put up the P200,000 reward during its recent homecoming, and that the members would chip in to cover the amount. He said the police had already been informed about the reward offer.

The Supreme Court welcomed the Ubupia initiative, saying efforts to bring those behind the blast "to the bar of justice should be a concerted effort."

"With this offer, it is hoped that we can get a closure to this incident at the earliest possible time," Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said in a text message.

The fraternity includes Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Associate Justices Roberto Abad and Arturo Brion, Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Andres Reyes Jr. and six other justices of the appellate court.

"While some of our members were involved in the incident, we felt that it's our responsibility as lawyers to help the victims whose nightmare of becoming lawyers may have been affected by this," said Aniceto Hernando, Ubupia's alumni president.

Marquez said that the probe body headed by Associate Justice Martin Villarama Jr. would look into the issues behind the attack, including fraternity war, involvement of those implicated in last year's massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao and destabilization moves against the Aquino administration.

The inquiry will be closed to the public. A media briefing will be conducted after each session. Sereno has directed the panel to submit its findings on Oct. 31.

Marquez said the panel may call Philippine government officials to testify and watch the video footage taken by the court's security division.

Villarama has directed the NBI, MB and the high court's security office to submit a copy of the latest report of their investigations to the committee.

At least five witnesses are expected to show up today at the start of the probe inquiry, Marquez said yesterday.

"Some of the witnesses are law students and barristers who were there in the area when the explosion occurred," he said. "Most of them had already given their statements to the law enforcement agencies investigating this. They will just be asked to depose."

In Cebu City, classmates and friends of Jed Carlo Laraga in the University of San Jose Recoletos scheduled a non-denominational prayer vigil tonight. They said Laraga had been looking forward to the bar examinations.

With a report from Xianne T. Enriquez Jr. and Chito A. Aragon, Inquirer Visayas

Saved by St. Luke's.

She was sprawled on the floor when I entered the room. Unconscious. But both her arms twitching uncontrollably.

Not the panicking type, I rushed my tita to the nearby hospital.

"Stroke 'yan", said the doctor.

But the troubled look on his face made me nervous.

"Our neurosurgeon isn't here but we are already trying to locate him", he said nonchalantly, but looking worried.

After almost an hour, there was still no sign of the neurosurgeon.

Lisa C. Cruz and her Tita Vicky Oppen

Feeling helpless and hopeless, I did what I should have done in the first place.

Dapat sa St. Luke's agad. So we rushed her there.

At St. Luke's the doctors attended to my tita with dispatch.

They have a Brain Attack Team, a rapid response team of doctors for stroke patients.

The neurosurgeon subjected my tita to tests with care and concern, using what I observed must be the latest technology. *(I found out later that it was a Philips 256-slice CT scanner that captured images in detail and in 3-D)*

"Ruptured aneurysm", the doctor diagnosed with professional confidence.

"We've moved her already to the operating room". "No problem", he reassured us.

And, true enough, barely six hours later, my tita and I were already having an animated conversation, as if nothing happened.

(Imagine if we had waited for that missing neurosurgeon at the other hospital? I shudder at the thought.)

Thanks to the expert doctors, and the advanced technology available to them, St. Luke's saved my tita's life.

The lesson? *Dapat St. Luke's agad, sa simula pa.*

The surprise: *"Hindi naman pala mahal sa St.Luke's".*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 6, 2014
27th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial
1st Reading: Gal 1:6-12
Gospel: Lk 10:25-37

Then a lawyer of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." The man wanted to have up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, too, saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Commentary:

But the teacher of the law wanted to justify himself in the mind Jesus. Who is my neighbor?

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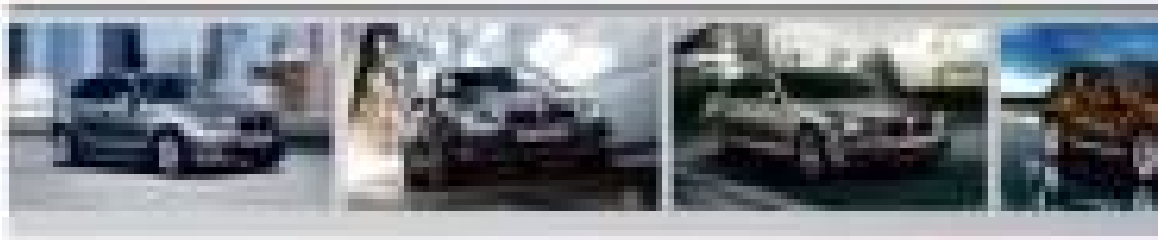

Series

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OPINION

Thankless job

TOMORROW, OCT. 5, is World Teacher's Day, and this month is World Teacher's Month by declaration of the Unesco, so it is only fitting to pay tribute to the pivotal role teachers play in shaping the lives of young people and the next generation of leaders and professionals. "Teachers are change agents," says the 2010 World Teacher's Day Message of the Unesco and other United Nations agencies. "[They provide] the impetus for the emergence of educated communities."

EDITORIAL

The celebration comes at a most auspicious time for the Philippines in the context of a new administration and, presumably, a new order. And like everything else about the new Aquino administration that seeks to define itself as the complete opposite of the old order, the celebration is turning out to be more special and perhaps, more meaningful, than usual. As early as a month ago, the Department of Education has been conducting activities to honor teachers nationwide, starting with the annual awarding ceremony of the Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding Teachers, a private-sector initiative, last Sept. 3. And even earlier, upon assumption into office of the new administration, its education secretary, Armin Luistro, had announced he would add one to two years to basic education in order to arrest what many perceive as the deteriorating quality of elementary and secondary education.

Particularly for the latter initiative, there has been opposition and even incredulity: to be sure, where would Luistro get the money to pay for two more years of basic education? And would quantity be the solution to what is essentially a problem of quality? In spite of these concerns, the fact that there's public debate on various moves to reform education is a fine way to mark Teacher's Day: it shows that the celebration is not merely paying lip-service to pedagogy and education, but marking the occasion substantively significantly.

And a substantive observance of World Teacher's Day should reckon with the lugubrious state of the profession, especially public teaching. In concrete terms, it could be seen in the vast disparity in the salaries between public school teachers and military and police personnel: the former receive a monthly salary of at least P13,808 with an additional P2,500 in allowances. This is a paltry sum when compared to the tough and demanding job teachers perform inside and outside of the classroom (especially the latter since they perform poll and other extra-academic duties). It is also a salary that hardly removes teachers from the poverty threshold. Thus, teaching is by and large a thankless job. No wonder education-degree holders go abroad to work as domestics.

But obviously the poor plight of public school teachers has something to do with the overall picture—of a government hard-pressed to provide for social services, especially education and health. The country's spending for education as a percentage of the gross domestic product has been shrinking compared with other countries. This explains the perennial complaint about the lack of classrooms and teachers. But even more worrisome, the shrinking spending for education has resulted in diversesing participation rates and the increasing dropout rates of late. The elementary-school participation dropped from 96.6 percent in school year 2006-2007 to 93.1 percent in 2008-2009. Meanwhile, the high-school participation rate dipped from 66.1 percent to 61.7 percent.

President Aquino has identified one of the problems plaguing teachers and the education system. He has said that while the ideal education budget is 9 percent of GDP, the government has managed in the recent years only 3 percent. In order to close the gap, he has said that there's need to increase the tax effort by 2 percentage points or about P156 billion. If he will be able to mobilize resources, the President has said he will make every centavo count, partly by involving private schools. Rather than build new buildings for public schools, the President has said he would enroll a million students in private schools so as to save P180,000 per classroom. He said he would use the savings for a feeding program, saying that the dipping participation rates have something to do with the poor health of pupils. That education and nutrition should go together.

The President has also vowed to enforce fully the Salary Standardization Law 3 in order to properly compensate teachers. But he will also put in place a system to foster meritocracy to govern promotion and salary increases. His plan is simple and no-fuss. It may not be enough, but at least it's a good start.

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Yes, Puno is entitled to due process

THE CHURCH is against the Reproductive Health bill because it authorizes artificial birth control, including the use of birth control pills taken by the women. Without women's groups ask: Who should it be for—women who bear the responsibility for birth control when babies are made sexually at the instigation of the man?

Well, I've said this before but I'll say it again. There is a birth control pill taken by the man. But it is not yet before going to bed. It has been proven 100 percent effective, but long hours in the market and is already being taken by many people. More important, it is acceptable to the Church. So no need for P-Noy to be excommunicated just to have a clear line between Church and State. Just use that birth control pill.

What is it? A sleeping pill.

* * *

Interior Undersecretary Rico S. Puno, accused of murdering people from jueteng lords, and himself one of the thousands before him, gives us unnerving questions during a Senate investigation into jueteng. Puno admitted that some friends and relatives of his approached him to ask him to meet with certain jueteng lords. His friend accepted them unconditionally.

Asked who these friends and relatives were, Puno replied that he doesn't remember. Yet moments later persons will tell you that this kind of answer immediately arouses suspicion that he knows the relatives and friends and he doesn't remember them!

Puno also said he has a list of jueteng lords they are investigating. Asked for the names but he replied that he would rather not say some names because it would short-circuit the jueteng lords' and prejudice their investigations. Another reminder. The jueteng lords already know they are jueteng lords and must be being targeted for investigation and prosecution by the government. So why need for Puno to be coy about them? Administrative many of them are already notorious.

Then he said he would resign but later said he would wait for P-Noy to return from his trip to the United States, as if asking his bosom friend's permission to resign is a requirement.

Puno's evasive answers bolster the suspicion that he may indeed have received payola from jueteng lords. On the other hand, P-Noy is correct in giving him due process. After all, there is still no evidence that he indeed has been bribed. What we have so far is only hearsay evidence. It is easy for anybody to say that this or that guy has been bribed but proving it is something else. And under our laws prior to proved reasonable doubt is needed before anybody can be convicted. Stated or for, everybody is entitled to the constitutionally guaranteed right to due process.

How would you like it if you are in Puno's shoes, accused, convicted and tossed aside on the strength of mere allegations but without any shred of proof?

What is clear is that various cliques in the Aquino administration are at each other's throats, stabbing one another in the back. What I do not understand is why P-Noy is allowing these things to happen, why he doesn't get his boys and girls and tell them to refrain from knives and work together instead of fighting or he would throw them all out on their faces.

Now that the 100-day honeymoon is almost over, I would like to say that one of P-Noy's flaws is that he is too kind-hearted, too reserved, not sending the unscrupulous gang-ups in his immediate family so long as he himself is above it all. He is squandering the tremendous goodwill that the people gave him during the elections.

He is either too weak to stop the wrangling or is actually encouraging them as a "divide-and-rule" tactic to prevent groups from uniting against him and deposing him, as was done against President Joseph Estrada and tried but was not able to be done against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. (As I see it, the first didn't deserve it but the second did.)

This is evident in P-Noy's appointments to his Cabinet. Knowing that Puno and Roxas-Bedwedin are not exactly friendly with each other, he nevertheless put them together at the Department of Interior and Local Government. It is like putting two dogs in a single cage. Maybe to make them match and check each other and prevent them from escaping. It may work, it may not.

Result, instead of working together, Bedwedin and Puno are severely sniping at each other. Their subordinates are planting stories to malign each other.

The media's people in the Office of the Press Secretary are also feuding so he divided the OPS into three parts and appointed the three feuding functionary to head each part with equal rank. It was like having one snake with three heads. Result: the offices where accountability it is to inform the people of what the P-Noy administration is doing can't even agree on what to tell the people. Several times, the three heads have issued contradictory statements.

It is good President is like a good orchestra conductor who guides all the members of the orchestra to play good music together. P-Noy is not orchestrating his team members. He is allowing each team member to play his own tune, to the chagrin of the audience. Result: there is cacophony instead of a standing ovation, he is exacting boos from the audience.

* * *

Back to jueteng, which is the original cause of this tragedy [see Joaquin Bernardo has filed a bill to legalize jueteng. The government can never stop it, he said, as we might as well legalize it so we can use and profit from it. Why should it be only the jueteng lords who benefit from it?

That is like surrendering to the jueteng lords. If you can't fight them, might as well join them. That is the message that is being sent to the people. We are telling the gambling lords that if they break the law long enough, the government will give up and make them legal. That is a message that is no longer "crime does not pay" but "crime pays."

Hostage

BEFORE ANYTHING else, let's be clear about that excommunication business. The Manio there doesn't lie with the CBCP. It lies with the media. CBCP president Bishop Nereo Odchimar had just finished presenting on the evils of P-Noy's endorsement of the RH bill in Manila Bulletin when I was called by a reporter of the president could be excommunicated for it. He replied: "There is a possibility. But right now it is just a preventive possibility." Then later than he could say "devil's quarrel" there he was being deported to media as threatening P-Noy with hellfire.

It's another cautionary tale on being careful not to believe the top of answering-loaded questions. (my favorite remains "Did Jennifer Lopez die shortly after the abortion, saying "Duh!" when asked what effect he would pocket if P-Noy offered it to him). Before that, he had been quoted as "Noon-time Binay" there he was being deported as demanding the post from the president.

From the other end, you would think media would be a little more careful, or a little knowledgeable, in making things out to be other than some's bishop in the dilapidation media of the hostage-taking. A reporter asks, "What sanctions are you contemplating?" and a bishop answers, "Excommunication," that is a threat. A reporter asks if excommunication might be a response to someone defying its teachings and a bishop answers it is a possibility though a remote one, that is not a threat, that is the sound of a bear taking the bait.

Having said that, the Church's opposition to P-Noy's championing of the RH bill—the best thing he's done in quite some time—merits remarks to its understands and genuine alternative from its flock. Unless the social media is merely a middle-class phenomenon than a mass one, but if the overwhelming sentiment expressed there is any indication, which ranges from African ungrade to tone irreparations against the Church—we are going to have a lot of vacant pews in the future very long. Indeed if the sending of Cardinal Cubbon into an overnight how is any indication, we are going to have a lot of heretics before very long.

The Church's argument that P-Noy's support

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

for the RH bill doesn't really give the faithful free choice because it bans pills and condoms on their a affix. The only reason the poor is poor is because they are using them in such numbers, it is asserted. They have no money. It's not a choice for them. You have no money, easier to withdraw during the act—though tell that to a poor kid in the throes of raging passion, and how insane—than to advance to a drug store to buy condoms. It's not a choice for them because, other than that, well, rigorous participation research 10,000 take my pantoufles down lightly.

While at that, what in God's name is the difference between withdrawing and using a condom, between pulling the thing out at the nick of time and pulling the thing out at the risk of crime? As artificial methods of birth control go, which one is really the more artificial? And which the more natural?

While at that as well, which form of gambling poses the more devastating moral consequences: betting on jueteng, which, I am told, is as classless as he will, merely impoverishes him some more and causes familial disruptions, or betting one's partner won't get pregnant, which, if one loses, as chances are he will, inverts with another month in food and causes social emptiness?

Making contraceptives readily available to the public does affect the real choice. It removes financial expensive from the equation. The faithful can always refuse them on grounds of morality, as they do Church-teaching that the prime purpose of making schoolgirls is making babies. A thing rape and priests themselves seem determined to believe, discharging (no pun intended) their Christian obligations by nurturing their narcissism and lonely pregnant. Indeed, priests can always exhort the faithful to pulpits to eschew contraceptives, even if they rule making them more faithless.

I'm glad my favorite president has found, well, the twin globes dangling under the main impulse. Those virgin sisters tried for some years with daring to bash the Church on this one. Who knows? Maybe the same God the bishops worship has given P-Noy a second chance to deal with a hostage crisis. A hostage crisis far bigger, far longer and far direr than the one that happened in the bus and took eight lives.

That is the Church holding the faithful of this country under pain of hellfire hostage to some of the most backward beliefs and practices.

That is the Church holding the public officials of this country under pain of quite literally committing their souls to damnation hostage to Opus Dei-type opposition to family planning, divorce and gender equality. P-Noy of course has used the Church line on divorce by closing the door once, which is really ridiculous in light of the Church's own acceptance of annulments. Not unlike its position of lighting parking while accepting other forms of gambling.

That is the Church holding this nation under pain of the execration, excommunication and damnation since well before Ann Rice hostage to the proposition that the man problem started in the earth, that man did not descend from the apes but was made in the image and likeness of his Maker, that women done from the ribs of Adam and may never be equal to her source.

That is the Church threatening to put back in unchallenged position particularly on matters of birth and morals. The Rolando Mendoza complaints debated by his old job, despite having been judged by the people...are least for proving a basic one: "Hello Garci"—and found wanting.

Maybe the same God the bishops worship had bigger plans for P-Noy all along. Maybe he failed the first hostage crisis only to win a second, and more epic, one.

Excommunication, anyone?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE THREAT of excommunication may have been invoked, but people are still asking about the what and how of excommunication. I hope the following can help.

First of all, what is excommunication? It is a penalty which excludes a person from communion with the rest of the church. Its effects can be grouped on the basis of goodies of the person in the Church. For ecclesiastics, for instance, it can mean prohibition from the exercise of priestly functions and ministry, while for lay people it can mean exclusion from the reception of the sacraments. It is the severest penalty under Church law, but it is good to remember that excommunication is intended to be medicinal, designed to bring about the conversion of a person's behavior and his or her reintegration into the full life of the Church. In other words, it is not meant to destroy but to redeem.

There are two kinds of excommunication: automatic and imposed. Automatic excommunication is incurred when one freely and knowingly commits an offense to which church law attaches excommunication. This is called *latae sententiae*. It does not come cheap. It comes in connection with outstanding and malicious offenses.

The number of offenses punishable by automatic excommunication are numerous in the universal law but have drastically reduced, and the sentence is usually not filed automatic because, aside from the requirement of full knowledge of and consent to the sinful act, the offense must be gravely imputable by reason of malice. Thus the Code of Canon Law also know that an automatic penalty is attached to the offense. Priests who hear confessions know that many sinners do not keep on communicating automatically because they do not know about the attached penalty. How widely known it is, for instance, that deliberate abortion can be granted by an excommunication latae sententiae.

The other kind is imposed excommunication. The books call this *ferendae sententiae*. It is a penalty that is prescribed by law for an offense and imposed by one who has both authority and jurisdiction to impose excommunication. For instance, a bishop has authority and jurisdiction to excommunicate a priest of his diocese.

The basic law on both kinds of excommunication says "No one can be punished for the commission of an external violation of a law or precept unless it is gravely imputable by reason of malice or culpability." The violation consists of both an objective element and a subjective element.

The objective element is the external act. It is one that can be perceived by someone who is present and if found admissible by the external forum. Thus a merely internal act of mind or will cannot be considered morally.

The subjective element is present if the offense committed is "gravely imputable by reason of malice." The concept of imputability must be understood clearly. It is not just responsibility in the moral sense, in the order of sin; it is imputability specifically in the juridical order. Therefore what the damage must be done in the public or social order. It is this damage in this juridical order which subjects a person to the public authority of the Church in the external forum.

There are two important concepts that must be understood: malice and culpability. "Malice must be understood as the deliberate intention of violating a law or precept; culpability, on the other hand, involves the violation of due diligence, i.e. the law or precept was violated through culpable ignorance or neglect of one's own legal responsibilities." The sense of establishing and proving malice and culpability belongs to the competent ecclesiastical authority.

That is not all, however. There still is the legal consequence of the offense. An external violation of a law is punishable only if the law provides for a penalty. Its lawyers always say *nullum crimen sine lege, nullapoena sine lege*. Moreover, as in the case of secular criminal law, church penal law is interpreted strictly, i.e., in such a way as not to enlarge the law. There is no application.

What can be seen from all this is that an important element of due process in church legislation is the recognition of the fact that although penal law have an important role to play, they are not a substitute for ordinary pastoral approach. This fact must be kept in mind by persons administering the law. There is a distinction between the imputability of the objective element of the offense and the imputability of the subjective element of the offense. Either one can be done of pastoral approach and determination of guilt.

Another indication of the pastoral theme of church law is the number of instances when evidence of a law is not subject to penalty. There are many instances when the law exempts or excuses from penalties. These instances include lack of age, ignorance of the law through no fault of one's own, duress or mental incapacity. Moreover, persons or people who are exempt from church penalties may be given a lesser penalty if they are allowed by a variety of extenuating circumstances. It is also good to remember that *favores sunt iis dandi qui non in duris*.

PS. In my next column I shall write about the questions whether a public official may impose his religious belief on those who follow a different set of beliefs.

Impunity still

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

UNTIL remembered for as a bounty very outrage yet full of determination Arabiyah who accompanied us to the different detention cells in Guantanamo Bay-Mexico following up the cases of persons detained as a result of the 2000 all-out war waged by then President Joseph Estrada against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The 30-year-old Bangsa Moro woman served as a paralegal helping us, lawyers belonging to the Free Legal Assistance Group, "If given the chance, I also wanted to become a lawyer some day," she said. Being, as family and friends call her, was then also the vice president for Mindanao of the College Editor's Guild of the Philippines (CEGP). Her group was then very active in campus journalism, and, deputy secretary general of the rights watchdog Kaagapay for Southern Mindanao.

She had other dreams, big and small. But those dreams were abruptly ended, literally. On April 8, 2000, while doing a three-day research on the implementation of the peace process in the Arakan Valley in North Cotabato province, she was murdered together with three others by Caliga troops under the army's 10th Special Forces Company and the 7th Infantry Battalion, led by one Maj. Antonio Tuzon.

Their deaths were immediately trumpeted by the authorities as a successful result of an encounter by the army and the MILF. Yet, when the NBI released its autopsy report stating that Bong and her companions—Arnaiza Ampuan, Vivian Alcala and Jimmy Bondoc—were killed at very close range, there was a sudden change in the army's stories ranging from the victims being caught in the crossfire to the Guild even claim that they were finished off by the rebels.

Being was shot to the head, neck, chest and hand, a survivor claimed that she and her companions were wounded after the fact they were merely while taking lunch was sealed by the Caliga. But instead of giving them medical help, the witness claimed, they were executed, gangland style, ignoring their cries for mercy. A cogent investigation by the CEGP in Cotabato also established the fact that Being and her companions were summarily executed.

Being's parents filed murder charges against the known perpetrators, but, more than eight years thereafter, the trial of the case is yet to be finished before a local court in Kidapawan City. The delay prompted Bongs' mother, Evangelina, in 2006 to elevate the case before the United Nation's Human Rights Commission (UNHRC).

While Being's friends and loved ones are still agonizing on how very slow the wheels of justice are grinding in the country, they can take solace and courage in the recent decision of the UNHRC finding the Philippine government "responsible for the death of Ms Benjaline Hernandez."

"The Committee, based on the material before it, finds that the State party is responsible for the death of Ms Benjaline Hernandez, and consequently that there has been a violation of article 6, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," said its report in Ms Benjaline Hernandez," said the decision made public last Sep. 28.

The UNHRC also stated that the government cannot "avoid its responsibilities under the Covenant with the argument that the domestic courts are dealing with the matter, when the remedies relied upon by the State party have been unreasonably prolonged."

It is interesting to note that in the proceedings before the UNHRC, the government said that "the killing of Ms Hernandez is not attributable to its armed forces or to the State but to individuals acting in their own interest."

What a rewriting palace!, no wonder a state of impunity is still sweeping the country even under the so-called "daang matuwid" of Noynoy.

* * *

Speaking of impunity, the all-out defiance by former DIC Collector of Customs Angie Sison Castillo of ruled court orders speaks volumes of how Customs bureaucrats from the previous disgraced Arroyo administration continue to hold sway under P-Noy's administration.

Last Feb. 26, 63 imported containers declared to contain a total of 12,000 bags of cement/construction materials arrived at the Davao Port. Based on an agreement signed by the Jan. 9, 2009 between Aquarius Container Yard (ACY), a private firm, and the Bureau of Customs, the imported containers should be brought to the ACY's container yard, the Designated Examination Area of the Port of Davao City.

However, the boxtight and scanned at the DAS last Feb. 26, the 63 container vans—looking suspicious—were recommended for opening and total physical examination.

Yet, no opening and physical examination took place. Container vans instead loaned for the immediate release of the container vans.

More surprisingly, after being apprised of the irregularity, Castillo not only ordered the immediate of the suspected misdeclared goods out of the BIA and to another place at the port area. The container vans turned out later to contain smuggled rice from Vietnam.

Subsequently, however, the agreement signed by ACY and the BOC was also unilaterally terminated, prompting ACY to seek the local court's redress.

An injunction issued last April 19 by the Regional Court of Davao City ordering the BOC to return the suspension of goods imported into the port of Davao at the DEA inside the ACY compound was already affirmed even by the Supreme Court. Yet, despite the ouster of the high court, the BOC, through Castillo, continued its defiance, compelling the local court to issue a contempt for his arrest.

The arrest warrant, apparently, did not deter Castillo, who eluded the police officers carrying it; he continues to hold sway to the local BOC office, seemingly under the protection of his own friends in the Customs administration. Again, is this P-Noy's "daang matuwid"?

The Making of a Senior Citizen

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

FRANCISCO "PENOY" Alampay was born in Laguna under the reign of Pope in 1930. His parents were Bernie Alampay who would serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and Virginia de Asuncion, a registered nurse.

Last month, Jing joined the ranks of senior citizens, and her beloved Cebu from the Ayala family of Virgin. Decided that it was an event that had to be celebrated with family never. Jing, a businesswoman, is a successful businessman. Let me mention that I joined his uncle-in-law of friends during my posting in Jakarta. I also met his wife, Jing, and through the years my wife and I have always enjoyed the company of Jing and Cebu.

Perhaps, it is best to use the celebrant's own words to describe how his made it to senior citizen status.

"There was that when one reaches 60, one hears the hourglass a lot closer and louder—but tonight in the midst of this gathering, what I really hear and savor is how truly blessed I have been.

"If you're viewing up your life into various stages, you may perhaps discover as I have, that the major events or milestones in one's life seem to cluster in cycles of about seven years.

"My young recollection of childhood starts in 1937 when our family relocated from Laguna to Antique. We were four boys and four girls to the family. Though holding in many comforts, sometimes my brothers and sisters never feel deprived as we were always fully cognizant of our parents' sacrifice and caring. To that end, my condition to encounter and find inspired by stories from unidentified people whom they touched with their kindness and humility. God sent my parents many generous and caring people, most notably the Ascampoos (now under Mother Rosalita who helped them put all eight of us through quality schooling on Dad's pretty meager salary as a Bureau of Land Surveyor).

"At 13, I left our home to enter the minor seminary first in Iloilo and later in Cebu. I will always be grateful to the Redemptorist fathers and Fr. Ramon Farias for the character education and spiritual formation that they devotedly imparted to me and to many provincial youngsters. While it was not my decision to leave the Church and be his priest, I do know for fact other plans for me to serve in an equally meaningful role in the Church and in society.

"The third cycle covered the years I left the seminary took my university studies in La Salle Bacolod and completed my Master's at the AIM in 1970. At AIM, then toured as the Harvard of Asia, I met Jing, who stepped straight from her sixth young and strongly driven men who thought they knew everything, many of them from the Ateneo. Here I discovered an unknown cousin and professor, Frankie Roman, who never once helped me pass. But he would later make amends through the kindness of Thelma and her compassionate staff.

"The next chapter right after my AIM days would prove the most life changing for me. I was assigned in Indonesia and started my professional career there which lasted for 12 years. Early during that period, I came home to marry Carlie, and became hopefully a good son to Dr and Mrs. Manuel Lim. We moved to Jakarta with the first two of our children, Rachel and Conrad. I also had the good fortune of knowing and becoming life-long friends with Cristina and Francis Estrada who was then my boss and mentor in Jakarta. I admire to a lot of mistakes in my life, but it would be malicious to attribute them to Francis.

"The next seven years in Indonesia without doubt was the most trying time for me. For most company in the Philippines closed down, and it was then that I made my first attempt at entrepreneurship—in a country not my own, at age 30 with limited experience and resources, and armed only with the ambition and the optimism of youth. I did not succeed in the venture, but in the process, as part of searching, I learned many valuable lessons which helped me greatly in the second part of my life. These were:

- A clear vest and understanding of patience, fortitude, tenacity and ingenuity to endure.
- A deep appreciation and thanks for the unconditional love and unwavering support of my wife and family.

- The value of friendship and acceptance of true friends like Sonny Kabasa, Tony Padilla, Bo Bernardo, Jerry Collado, Jing Montero, Mike Dizon, Bobby Arandilla, Ben Libarnes and late Dr Leon. At some point all became godparents to my children as I became to theirs.

- Above all, I learned that the Lord's unfailing love, guidance and providence. The clearest example of this was when I was at the end of my rope with no means to repay a crippling bank loan. The Lord showed me the way out by having the creditor bank bail and clean down. Much like earth-time when we return to Him. He always wipes the slate clean.

"I returned full time to corporate life, working in one of the largest Indonesian groups through the help of a good friend, Gio Silo. You and I continue to collaborate as partners together with other friends like Ed Mabaka in various businesses deals.

"In 1990, our family returned to Manila be good to allow our children to discover and acquire their Filipino roots. Between tutoring, God gifted us with our third and fourth sons, Paolo and Enzo.

"It has been 14 years since we settled back. During the first seven years, the Lord blessed us in finding and building our permanent home in White Plains. Despite the uncertainties and difficulties of the early years, we were never left on our own. God always provided new opportunities each time the need came. There was never too much but there was always enough.

"Four years ago, I founded a small business process outsourcing company called Exportise Philippines, serving primarily the architectural and engineering needs of local and offshore firms. After initial uncertainties, the company is now poised to establish leadership in the survey visualization and animation field.

"Apart from professional work, the Lord slowly led our family to service and new friendships in our first real parish community of Christ the King. Under the inspiring leadership and example of our beloved parish priest, Msgr. Eusebio Mateo, we were introduced to Christian stewardship, and to friends like Nick and Mila Peña.

"The above is a short summary of what has kept me busy and blessed through the years, and feeling young at 60. I think it would be appropriate to thank the Lord for allowing me to share mind over matter. If you do not mind, it does not matter."

* * *

Welcome to the club, Jing. You are now entitled to a 20 percent discount on medicine, health and sports facilities, discounts on hotels, restaurants, theaters, movie houses, and the value-added tax on the sale of certain goods and services. Now, if anyone ever dares to suggest a reduction of these benefits, remind him that we are close to 6 million strong registered voters and counting!

Repeating a quarter-century-old mistake

COMMENTARY

James Bruce

President Aquino should immediately announce and put into effect an order that these groups are to be disarmed and disbanded

TWENTY-THREE YEARS ago this month (cf. October!), Philippine President Corazon Aquino traveled to the dome of Davao City, which had been a battleground between communist insurgents and several vigilante groups. There she told Zhenying Abe Mutsu ("Yamato ama") vigilantes: "We look up to you as the example to our fight against communism."

Cory's prominent place in the pantheon of Philippine democracy is assured, but that was not her finest moment. Amid New People's Army attacks, Aquino gave the vigilante groups—now with the president's blessing—unbridled bloody havoc on communities in Mindanao and many other regions of the country.

Although the 1987 "People Power" Constitution outlawed all unauthorized armed groups established, the Aquino administration merely banned only those "Philippine Irregular Volunteer Organization Units (CVOs) and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs). Responsibility for their salaries, weapons and control fell on the army, police and, in practice, local officials. These forces thrived and so did killings, torture and enforced disappearances.

It quickly led to enormous havoc, as Aquino in back in the presidency and the vigilantes—however named—are sadly still with us. As a result of the November 2009 massacre of at least 57 people in Maguindanao province by militias linked to the Ampatuan ruling family, both the lawlessness of these groups and their menace by authorities spur bad global image.

The horrid killings by such groups over the years have been magnified by the national government's near complete failure to punish those responsible. Should the Ampatuan trial—now under way in Manila—successfully prosecute those behind the massacre, it may herself a new government commitment to accountability. But even if that prosecution is the case, it will not be enough to curtail the widespread abuses by militia forces.

During his presidential campaign, Benigno Aquino III repeatedly called for so-called private armies to be abolished. At the same time, he and other officials contended that the Cafgus and CVOs are needed as "force multipliers" in areas where the New People's Army and other Maoist-trained groups are active. This view presupposes both that the official militia forces can be disciplined from the "private" armies and that these forces do more good than harm in protecting the population. Neither contention seems to be borne out by the terrible history of such forces in the Philippines. Rather than providing genuine security in areas where the regular military and police simply cannot be present, they more frequently have become a vehicle for illegal activities and abuse.

With President Aquino now in office for three months, it has become increasingly clear that he has chosen the same counterinsurgent loopholes his mother did. Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda in July said that Aquino "wants to make sure that [the vigilante groups] will be strictly under the supervision of the armed forces and national police." Instead of ordering that all militia forces be dismantled, Aquino is going with the presumably ineffectual approach of trying to strengthen authority over them.

Having traveled around Mindanao in the late 1980s investigating one atrocity after another committed by vigilante groups, I can deeply true bled by the new administration's failure to confront the issue head on.

A change is course is needed. President Aquino should immediately announce and put into effect an order that these groups are to be disarmed and disbanded. This action will be a necessary but allows the armed forces and police to fill any resulting security gaps and limit the risk to individuals. But the process needs to start before the next massacre, not after.

The first President Aquino made a mistake that the current President Aquino can surely be expecting his mother's legacy; the one can do much to build his own.

James Bruce, legal and policy director at Human Rights Watch, has followed the human rights situation in the Philippines since the mid-1980s.

Recall Recto in 'season of threats'

LETTERS

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

'Some pretend place where bluebirds sing'

From page A1

good. You're not an educator. That is why they are questioning Ms. Go asking 'What book must be removed?' Said why is he an expert for the whole country? It's like he's a pontiff."

Federico Reyno, an editorial consultant at JC Palabay Enterprises (a publisher of public school textbooks) also added his letter to the others defending the DepEd, the BSCS, the author and the publisher by saying that "Go should be kind and impartial in the career he belongs in. He should have initially called the government to the errors through a formal letter, instead of immediately subjecting them to public embarrassment and destroying their characters. He's talent for fault-finding has undermined the credibility of the whole educational system. He is being destructive instead of being constructive."

The DepEd Bicolandia engaged the services of an academic expert from the University of the Philippines to look into my "allegations."

The expert boasted that the "infinal majority of Go's findings. There are no 700 errors in the reading textbook. Go inflated the number by distorting it. Forty five claims are spurious. Lowering errors to merely errors is a case of intellectual dishonesty and scholarly malpractice. Media has made the error to error redoxus. Go has a good moddle. Limited knowledge base and employs unscrupulous, unethical tactics to elevate himself at the expense of others. This person should not be among us professionals ranks. Corruption of character and practice lies towards the suppression of unbridled thirst of his sense. I hope in shame him into possible reformation, that he may see that his greatest mask has ripped. It was precisely Go's distortions that created the errors, the errors are baseless."

Instructional purpose

The most shameless and mindless of these justifications came from a senior Sixth Prince of Legarda Elementary School who said: "I dislike the fact that my beloved Grade 6 student (Cada) was publicly humiliated by Go's lack of comprehension. His narrowed approach is uncalled for. He misunderstood the purpose of the book, specifically its instructional purpose. Filipino-speaking individuals learning the English language would take comfort in this book's approach as it teaches them how to correct the sentences in its proper form. This book contains errors for instructional purpose."

In June 2010, the DepEd Bicol officially released letters informing the 17 page "Teaching Notes for English Grade 6 Textbooks." Its introductory message reads: "These textbooks passed the four areas of content evaluation and were reviewed by our selected board prior to mass printing. However, feedbacks from stakeholders and users necessitate the issuance of this Teaching Notes, which is the summary of feedbacks from concerned private individuals, DepEd personnel and the authors/editors. This is provided as your guide in correcting errors that may be found in the textbook you are using."

Tell the "Teaching Notes" omitted the errors "that may be found" in the textbooks? In the case of "English for You and Me Reading Textbook Grade 6," it did not. Of the 17 published errors, only nine were corrected. Some of the "corrected" errors resulted their infamous incoherence.

'Do not eat dead meat'

For instance, the statement "The Koran forbids the eating of dead meat and blood" had been "corrected" in "The Koran forbids eating of meat and blood of dead animals." That is saying the same thing! Both statements imply that only live or living animals are allowed to be eaten! (Pork, blood and carrion are forbidden).

In the sentence "Some pupils wiggle their heads to signal that they feel something," the word "wiggle" was changed to "shake," which means the same thing! It's still a stupid thing to say! It's still a culture, shaking the head meaning NO!)

The question "If you were to assess your family's assets, how much do you think would your worth be?" was "corrected" by inserting the word "family's" between the words "your" and "worth." It did not correct the error in honni is the wrong notion that a Grade 6 pupil would know how to assess his family's assets.

Because the most serious errors had been left intact in this book, the "Teaching Notes" seem to me is nothing more than a ruse to give the impression that everything had been made right, that errors no longer exist in the book. They are all there, they are undoubtedly errors, and they won't go away until we correct them.

I wouldn't have dared to publicize them if I did not believe I was absolutely correct, or if other people did not confirm that I was right. My point is this: must the DepEd spend so much to "correct" these books, why did it not get the whole hog be really ready correcting the major major errors?

Whiskey spring

Education Secretary Armin Luistro and all incoming education officials of the new administration should realize that as far as public school textbooks are concerned, it's really just "some pretend place where the bluebirds sing and there's a whiskey spring").

My God no one but our reviewers and public school students—if we think that the textbook situation is already A-OK. It is not. Textbooks are the most basic of all instructional materials. Error-filled textbooks compromise and corrupt the entire teaching-learning process and render it ineffective and ineffectual.

Anchored upon such a weak foundation, the graduates that are the end product of ten years of immersion in the dye bath of error come out of the assembly line lacking and broken to a sea of botched expectations, missed opportunities and broken promises.

Before the elections, President Aquino vowed that he would not tolerate poor textbook quality as our schools, saying that "textbooks under my watch will be judged by three criteria: quality, buyer quality and more quality." If we want to build a truly strong society, a country we can be proud of, this must be entertwine.

The plea to add two more months to the book evaluation cycle is impractical if not impossible. It simply isn't doable at the moment. The best thing for the DepEd to do is to concentrate all its efforts and resources at straightening what it already has—fostering the bird to its hand rather than pining for the one in the bush.

It has to prioritize existing problems and their solutions. Ending the saga of error in public school textbooks should be a national priority.

I have just been given a list of "Textbooks Procured and Delivered or Scheduled for Procurement and Delivery for School Year 2010-2011." According to this list, five books of the "English for You and Me" series had been "registered and delivered (not to) (with) (from) May to September 2010." One of these is the Reading textbook for Grade 6.

Is what this man say true?

"Is what this man say true?" is the title of a documentary film currently being made by ARROYOFILMS about me and my advocacy. They took that title from my article which was published by the Inquirer in June 2009. I got that line from page 149 of The Reading Unit book for Grade 6.

This error, to quote that it was chosen to be the title of a film, was not corrected in the "Teaching Notes." Why? Is that not an error? I cannot be the life of me understand why the book is called being "reprinted and delivered nationwide." By recollecting those books, are we not, in effect, rewarding the guilty instead of punishing them?

Adding one more years means subjecting students to two more years of being held hostage by so-called "instructional materials" that are in truth what are they, good and correct. It means adding two more years of miseducation brought about by error-filled textbooks, incompetent teachers and inadequate facilities. To be continued

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Assistant Editor Tony Hiergesia

Across the NATION

Maguindanao mayor's son linked to rape

COTABATO CITY—A Maguindanao town mayor assured authorities he would cooperate with police in investigating a son of his who was being linked to the gang rape of a volunteer nurse on Sept. 25.

Mayor Abdula Ganggang of South Upi, Maguindanao, said he wouldn't evade the investigation.

Investigators mobilized the name of Ganggang's son who is being linked to the gang rape. At least six suspects have been arrested and one detained.

Haroun Lucman Jr., ARMM interior and local government secretary, said he met with Ganggang on Friday and was assured by the mayor of his cooperation.

Lucman said the governor of security, Ganggang promised to convene the town's peace and order council to discuss the gang rape.

In a statement sent to reporters here, however, Ganggang said he suspects that accusations on link him or any member of his family to the crime were part of efforts to undermine his rule as mayor.

He said he suspects that presidential families in South Upi, who have been contesting issues of land his family owned, might be behind the efforts.

"They could be behind the plot to destroy my administration," he said. He refused to identify who these families were.

Health officials in the ARMM urged authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of the case.

Lawyer Rasjah Hasanudan, ARMM executive secretary, said the services of forensic experts would be vital in determining the identity of the men behind the crime.

"Forensic science will lead us to the bottom of the case. It would provide us a non-biased finding that would determine who really were involved," Hasanudan said.

The 21-year-old victim works under the government's Nurses Assistance for Rural Services (Nars) program.

She has yet to confront the six suspects now being held in custody by police because her testimony will determine what will happen to them, he added.

Dr. Kadil Sinolinding, ARMM health chief, also entered the victim Friday, said the nurse had very serious body injuries.

"The whole right side of her body has been paralyzed due to her head injuries caused by certain blows from hard objects used by her attackers," Sinolinding told reporters.

"It may take three to five months for her to recover from paralysis," he said.

Sinolinding said despite this situation she showed some development.

He said that in five days time the victim could fully recover her senses and identify photos of her male attackers.

Police have taken photos of the suspects, including an person already in jail, for possible identification of the victim but health officials prevented them from entering her hospital room.

Sinolinding, Sinsuelos and ARMM Social Welfare Secretary Pendatum Rasul Kadir visited the victim Friday night and handed over P50,000 financial assistance to her parents.

Guarantees gave his one month salary of P33,000 to the victim's parents for the medical needs of the volunteer nurse.

The victim's father received the aid and witnessed his self for justice after president expressed that his daughter's attack on behalf of his indigenous tribe in the town infiltrated by drug traffickers and users.

In Manila, the Muslim Alliance for Democracy (MIDA) has called on the government to render swift justice for the nurse.

In a statement, MIDA condemned the gang rape saying its members were both saddened and angered by the sexual attack and prospective health workers in the rural areas now feel threatened.

"What happened sends a chilling message to nurses and health professionals who consider working and even engaging in far-flung areas where their services are badly needed," Dr. Ernest E. Rivera, MIDA secretary general said.

"The perpetrators should be immediately hotlined to court and given the highest possible penalties for their heinous crime," she added.

"The (victim) and others like her volunteer to work in distant areas despite the lack of infrastructure and financial support for them. The reality should compel the government to act immediately act," Rivera said.

Charlie V. Señase and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao; and Willa Cullipa in Manila

Clean up act, DPWH warns E. Visayas engineers

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson warned district engineers in Eastern Visayas to start cleaning up their act or the agency would have zero tolerance for those involved in graft and corruption.

It was about time the image of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as one of the most corrupt national government agencies be made "a thing of the past," Singson said.

"There will be no mercy for you if you are caught," Singson said in his talk Saturday with the 15 Eastern Visayas district engineers led by director Rodolfo Fresno at Hilo, Leyte.

Fresno said the division engineers should listen hard Singson's warning.

"You have heard our secretary. So you better listen to him," he said to the district engineers, after all sat quietly as both Singson and Fresno spoke about the DPWH leadership's zero-graft campaign within the department.

Singson, however, stressed that due process would be strictly followed before sanctions is meted on an erring official or personnel.

The DPWH secretary takes on his first visit to Eastern Visayas, was in the region to attend Saturday's launching of the $214.4-million road rehabilitation project covering 223 km of roads in Eastern Samar and Samar provinces to be headed by the Millennium Challenge Corp. of the United States government.

It would no longer be "business as usual" at the DPWH, as he was serious in changing the image of the department and not it of its corrupt officials, Singson said.

Transparent biddings

"We will run after those who engage in corrupt practices. I will not allow corrupt practices to continue in our department," he said.

DPWH, in various surveys, has been rated high among the most corrupt government agencies, with a number of its officials being accused of taking bribes from contractors that resulted to poor quality of infrastructure projects.

Singson has also ordered that all district engineers in the region to make all public biddings transparent to avoid suspicion that the process is being rigged in favor particular contractors.

As part of the policy of the administration of President Aquino to clean up the government bureaucracy of corrupt officials and personnel, he said he would make sure that the DPWH would conduct an "honest-to-goodness" bidding of its projects.

Rich kids build houses for poor in Laguna

CALAUAN, Laguna—Christian Ayala is turning 14 on Tuesday but his sleep now pony kicked off differently. Along with a bunch of schoolboys he dirtied his sneakers with shoveled soil, sand and stained his shirt while painting empty houses he people he may see ever have met.

"I told him from 14 (year old) onwards, every time it's your birthday ... you have to share something," said Christian's mother, Ina, who brought a birthday cake to Barangay Dayap here to celebrate her son's birthday.

It was the children's turn on Saturday as 33 of them, mostly from affluent families and exclusive schools in Manila, did their share in building homes for poor families to be relocated from Estero de Paco.

The renovation of the industrial shelters is a project of the 600+CBN Foundation, the National Housing Authority and various business groups. The renovation of the homes was a project made possible through Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP).

HFHP managing director Ricky Jacinto said the group was working on Site 2, which occupies 12 hectares of the reconditioned area for 1,072 housing units. The Ayala boysen group has donated 175 homes and will finish its construction by November.

Frances Cruzcosa-ali, a high school freshman at International School Manila, said he learned about the activity from friends and readers through the social networking site Facebook.

He belonged to the "sticker" group of teens, who were assigned to build the houses by piling up the blocks and pouring cement over them. "I just feel so blessed," he said, as he proudly carried a small-sized concrete block.

Nicole Marshall, 9, was stick the youngest kids assigned to paint two seedlings and paint the front walls of some houses.

She said she was excited about going to the remote resettlement area. "When (schools) go school), I'm gonna tell (my classmates) about this," she said, after burying a wee sapling which she said was her first time.

"I think they're going the houses to some of the typhoon victims too," she added.

From ivory towers

Business tycoon Fernando Zobel de Ayala brought two of his daughters, Sibila and Natasha, to the renovation site.

He said it was his children who volunteered to participate in the activity after hearing much about the HFHP projects from him.

Natasha and her friends wrote letters to their friends and their friends' parents, soliciting part of their allowances to fund the construction of two housing units, which were around P90,000 each.

Jacinto said rejoining the children would help instill the values of compassion and make them become "better than (how) they are (now) people around."

Site 1, Salitran 4 Phase, SLRB, who serves as the community's patron, the activity helped encourage the children to become part of a social advocacy and become an inspiration to their parents who could also coordinate their own efforts to the building activities.

"By seeing the plight of the poor, they will make up to the elite needs of the people," he said. *Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Noy to reform ancestral land-titling body, says solon

LA (TRIBUNE), Benguet—Congress is working on measures that would ban ethnic discrimination, create zones dedicated to tribal welfare, and shield ancestral lands from the pressures of the mining industry.

But the best news coming out of the country's longest-serving president (27) months headstrong environment was the confirmation that President Aquino is considering back the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) under the Office of the President.

NCIP is a bureau under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Bagus Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., chair of the House committee on indigenous cultural communities, said Bagus Agus is, NCIP chair, made the announcement on Friday, citing talks with Malacañang officials.

Baguilat said he was informed that the President planned to issue the order freeing NCIP from DENR this month.

Mayabacalan, he said, stranded indigenous Filipino organizations to start submitting their nominees for NCIP commissioners next week because Mr. Aquino planned to fill up three of six vacant NCIP posts.

The NCIP commissioners, no-checking Agnes, were dismissed for being unfit-right appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Baguilat, in a speech at the Benguet State University here on Friday, said Malacañang and Congress planned to enforce the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) using IP aspiration for "self-determination and the right to use their own resources."

"Your land is our identity and that is what we are really fighting (to protect)," he said.

Congress is deliberating on 10 bills and four proposed resolutions that address IP concerns, led by the committee on ethnic minorities, Baguilat said.

Beverly Longid, Bagus president, said they urged Congress to "review and rectify all discriminatory content" about indigenous Filipinos contained in the media, books and reference materials.

"The bill or a law against discrimination must penalize discrimination not only in the workplace, in education, in the delivery of goods and services and to accommodation or housing and other rights and welfare of indigenous peoples," Longid (DARE).

He said BAR had started issuing Certificates of Land Ownership Award for ancestral lands, even though this is outside its mandate. Howard Cabreros, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

● CEBU CITY

PDEA shabu seized

AGENTS OF the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Cebu City on Thursday said to be the biggest haul this year for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Cebu.

PDEA Central Visayas director Anton Alvarino said the prohibited drug, weighing over a kilo, was recovered from five suspects Ronald Sora and Antonio Lorenzo. PDEA agents were initially just targeting Sora who sold 5 grams of the drug to an agent. But Sora led the house of Lorenzo where pursuing operatives caught her repacking the drug.

Alvarino said Sora's group operates in Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Dagupan. A notebook containing the names of the group's drug dealers was also found in Lorenzo's house, he said.

Chito S. Aragon, Inquirer Visayas

● CAVITE

Village exec slain

A VILLAGE councilor, who was seeking reelection in this barangay's youth elections this month, was gunned down in cross on the eve of the Special filing of candidacies.

Reynaldo Nava Ortiz, a councilor in Barangay Malagasang, died of a bullet wound in his back after two unidentified men aboard a motorcycle shot him at around 7 a.m. Thursday, also on the said village, said Senior Supt. Danilo Abalajig, Cavite police director.

Investigators chief Insp. Joseph Arguelles said they were looking into "personal grudge" as a motive.

Nestor Cruz, Inquirer Southern Luzon

● CITY OF MALOLOS

Dengue calamity

GOVERNMENT doctors urged the provincial government to place calamity in Bulacan due to the rise of cases after dengue-related fatalities rose to 14 last week.

Dr. Joy Gomez, head of the Bulacan provincial health office, said the provincial government needed to access funds to deal with the health crisis.

San Jose de Buenavista City tops the list of Bulacan towns with dengue patients, followed by the City of Malolos and Sta. Maria. *Carmela Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon*

● SAN JOSE CITY

Inmate recaptured

POLICE recaptured an inmate who fled from a hospital where he was being treated for mauling in jail in Nueva Ecija.

Alonzo Paulo, who was facing attempted homicide charges, was allegedly beaten up by 11 prisoners at the city jail, and was taken to San Jose City General Hospital on Sept. 22. He slipped out of the hospital's back door when nurses and prison guards were distracted by an emergency case.

His police escorts chased Paulo but he eluded them. The inmate was recaptured still handcuffed at a neighboring village.

Armand Galang, Inquirer Central Luzon

SCHOOLCHILDREN of Almendras Elementary School in Barangay Anonang, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, listen intently to Mateo ng Davao 2018 people. They do the talk stories about mangroves and garbage during a "read-along" session.

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READ-ALONG

Davao del Sur pupils learn conservation

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—At 13, Mhaica Jade Bobila is not unlike her classmates in many ways—which is to study up telling friends—but he also is seriously wishes to write comic in time, the reason when at home, he often endows with an old typewriter.

"I want to use that typewriter in class and work with it," said Bobila, perhaps oblivious that most present writers have already replaced that old-but-well-looking apparatus with the more convenient computers.

Bobila was one of over 40 pupils of Almendras Elementary School in Barangay Anonang here who took part in the lesson's Read-Along on Sept. 20.

This early, the future storywriter shows his proclivity for details of every story he hears, listing down the characters and their circumstances on a notepad—as if afraid he would miss even the most unimportant information about them.

Bobila and the other children followed the characters behind "Inuyan Mountain" written by Christine Venida-Bahian, and "Sakuwan," written by Miss Earth executive director Cathy Untalan-Reyna Rue de Leon Sarmiento, and Mahawel Tinitan.

The read-along was held through the partnership of the Inquirer and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Philippine Environment Governance (EnGov) project and the Mintapi ng Davao Foundation.

Retelling "Inuyan Mountain," a story about a horrifying creature that feeds on the garbage thrown to the river, was Mintapi ng Davao 2018 Jinelle Tee while "Sakuwan," a story about mangroves, was Sta. Cruz Mayor Joel Fay Lopez.

The children are mostly residents of the coastal villages of Astorga in along Sibulan River.

During the question-and-answer portion of the session, a student was asked about the importance of the mangroves. "The protection of the mangrove also means the protection and abundance of the fish and other sea creatures," the participant said.

Also highlighted was the importance of Sibulan River that provides potable water to the town with about 60,000 in population.

The river also holds value in major industries that have put up huge investments in the town, Sta. Cruz is host to two of the country's major biodiversity areas—Mt. Apo National Park and Davao Gulf.

The Inquirer Read-Along was part of the advocacy for the Sibulan River conservation.

Road rehab seen key to Samar development

By Jaro A. Gabieva
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The rehabilitation of its major roads might just open the doors for the entire island of Samar to achieve economic development.

That said Secretary Rogelio Singson of the Department of Public Works and Highways who, together with officials of Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), inspected on Saturday the areas identified under the Samar Island Highway Challenge Corp. Road Project.

Under the project, 223 kilometers of road covering parts of Samar province and several towns in Eastern Samar will be rehabilitated at a cost of $214.6 million, a huge chunk of the $434 million grant that came from the United States and channeled through the MCC.

The MCC is an independent US foreign aid agency that aims to help poor countries like the Philippines as long as they meet performance criteria on democratic principles and rule of law.

"With this road rehabilitation project, hopefully, we can finally take out the lowest provinces from among the poorest provinces in the country and upgrade the quality of life among its people," Singson said.

Joining Singson were MCC officials Bernie Reinsmoen, Ben Gampell, Josyllin Cotera and Matthew Stoltz, the resident country director of the MCC for the Philippines.

Stoltz said this group supported the project, when completed, to play a pivotal role in the improvement of the three provinces on the island—Eastern Samar, Northern Samar and Samar.

"We hope to reduce poverty through economic growth. We hope to improve access to market and social services, and increase economic activity and employment opportunities there," he said.

The MCC's approach is to find areas where the agency can reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth, he added.

For Samar road repair project was expected to start within the year and be finished in five years, Singson said.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone expressed gratitude to the US government for the great because of its hope to pave on the lives of the people in his province.

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Civil disobedience still a CBCP option

From page A1

News, the official news service of the Church's Samahang Ugnayan sent posted on the CBCP website under the headline: "Church leaders say civil disobedience a possibility."

First time

In the same article, the CBCP media director, Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, said that in the history of the CBCP, the first and only time the Church had called for civil disobedience was following the coup presidential election in February 1986 in which the palm supported the overthrow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a People Power Revolution.

"Since the CBCP was established in 1945 until today, [it] was just [the] single event that called for civil disobedience," Quitorio said.

The CBCP News posted the remarks of Pijoan and Quitorio a day after Mr. Aquino said he had met with some bishops to discuss the controversy and another meeting with them was in the works. CBCP officials said they were also open to talks with him.

Civil disobedience is a moral stance from of protest in which people deliberately violate a law. It can be carried out in many ways, such as nonpayment of taxes, boycotts, strikes, or sit-ins.

Gandhi, Luther King

History has shown many examples of civil disobedience. In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi and his followers defied the British Salt Acts, which forced Indians to buy salt from the British. In 1955, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks launched civil disobedience, including boycotts of buses, in fight for African-American civil rights.

In 1986, Mr. Aquino's mother, the late President Cory Aquino, herself led a civil disobedience protest and boycott of crop-owned companies in a campaign to topple the Marcos dictatorship.

The family planning controversy after Mr. Aquino said during a recent visit to the United States that he might extend assistance to couples who preferred to use artificial contraceptives to limit the number of their children.

A Palace official later said that contraceptives were already being made available to the poor in local health centers and that the government had also allotted to it a portion of the proposed 2011 budget.

Church officials say contraceptives is a type of abortifacient which the Church says is a grave crime and is banned by the Constitution.

'Bishops have moral reason'

Pijoan explained that civil obligations "is the respect given by the people to the state and the laws of the state and according to Church principles, we should do that."

"But according to the same Church principles, if a law or a state policy is against Christian teachings, persons, Christians, Catholics are not bound by conscience to obey that," he added, citing this as the foundation of civil disobedience.

"When we or were policies or state programs is not in consonance with what the faith teaches or hurts that perspective, if the local church in the Philippines or the bishops in the Philippines decide to call for disobedience because of this possibility of enacting the controversial reproductive health bill and the distribution of artificial contraceptives, the bishops would have a moral reason to do that."

While Catholic lay groups were poised to stage protests in the coming weeks against the Aquino administration, Quitorio said the bishops as a body "have not called for any mass actions so far."

On Friday, the CBCP president, Bishop Nereo Odchimar, said the Church wanted to address the controversy with Aquino "in the spirit of dialogue and not of confrontation."

Odchimar, who had said that excommunication of Mr. Aquino was "a possibility," later said the Church was not contemplating that action.

'We favor no method'

Malacañang yesterday tried to dismiss perceptions that it favored artificial contraceptives as the sole family planning method.

"We are not advocating any (family planning) method over the other," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

"We will support all family planning methods that couples will choose after getting information about them," Valte added.

"So it's not right to say that the position of the President is prefer or sanction or whatever. He is for responsible parenthood."

Valte made the statement when asked about Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto's call for Mr. Aquino to emulate the example of his late mother, Aniceto said Cory Aquino listened to the Church during her presidency.

Valte said the Palace recognized there were issues it would confront that would either be supported or opposed by people. "The government will do the right thing for the benefit of the majority," she said.

Too soon

Sen. Jinkee Arroyo said it was not only too soon for the Church to oppose the moves in Congress to adopt the RH measure but that taking a hardline stance could "boomerang" on its hierarchy.

"The opposition against the RH is too premature, a hearing has yet to be held and they are already against it. The

Marikina shoes fight cheap imports

From page A1

world's largest shoes—a pair of leather men's shoes, made as large as a van...which are still on display at a Marikina mall.

Toast of Fifth Avenue

Generations of Filipinos grew up wearing the local products, and Marikina made sizable shoe shows become the toast of New York's Fifth Avenue in the early 1990s, the city boasts on its website.

But Marikina's shoemakers—and the shoe museum—have suffered setbacks in recent years. Massive flooding from last year's Tropical Storm "Ondoy" damaged the museum as well as many shoemakers' facilities and inventory.

The storm and the foreign competition took their toll. From a peak of 2,000 shoemaking factories in the mid-1990s, only about 200 remain, said Roger Pe, director general of the Philippine Footwear Federation.

Museum reopens

In late September, however, the museum reopened—just one of the moves that Marikina officials and businessmen hope will turn the footwear industry around, according to Mercedano Sabiniano, the city administrator.

Tourists who visit the museum and look for a place to buy Marikina shoes, officials said, soon the city is setting up a permanent shoe expo in a central area to sell its key product and spread the word about its quality.

"Stop one in the local market. Once we fix that, we can go abroad," Sabiniano said.

Quality has never been a problem, Endrigo pointed out. "We have some up-notch excellent shoes. The quality of craftsmanship in the Philippines can compete with Italy."

Missed opportunities

Even so, the footwear consultant added: "I won't say the shoe industry is dying, but it is missing out on a lot of opportunities."

Government figures show that Philippine footwear exports in 2009 dropped 10.5 percent over the previous year to $22.06 million.

Exports for the first seven months of 2010 hit $14.76.3 million in 1994 but have fallen short by over the years.

Many visiting foreign buyers are still impressed by the quality of Philippine footwear, said Marilinda Diaz, an officer of the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion.

"But when they ask for China-level prices and the deal falls through," Diaz recalled.

According to Pe, smuggling compounds the problem, with huge volumes of foreign shoes being sold at prices no local company can compete with.

The solution is not to compete with the high-volume production of these countries, he said.

"We avoid meeting the competition head-on in the cheap footwear sector. We go for the middle and the high end," said Pe, who heads Indian footwear, a major local manufacturer.

The local cobblers are now targeting smaller boutique stores in developed countries, where low prices are not the main attraction, he said.

Rising wages in China are also making Marikina shoes more competitive, Pe added.

"China is becoming expensive, Vietnam is not that cheap either. We just have to go out and sell ourselves," he said. /AVP

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.I. Ochoa

SPORTS

More Sports, A27-A30

Meralco nips Ginebra in big PBA start

Glitziest rites launch PBA's 36th season

By Marvey R. Castillo

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DID YOU KNOW

ACCORDING to Makati City Ordinance 2000-A-010, animal owners are required to register their pets with the city or barangay. Licenses will only be issued after the animals undergo rabies vaccination, Sofiann Opondo, Inquirer Research

11 hurt as car hits FX taxi in Pasig

By Nina Calleja

ELEVEN PASSENGERS of an FX taxi were hurt after a car driven by a teenager rear ended their vehicle on C5 Road in Pasig City shortly before midnight on Saturday.

The accident happened at around 11:45 p.m. as the taxi was traveling on the northbound lane of C5 Road on its way to Libis, Quezon City.

Traffic investigator PO2 Jerwin Galvez said a speeding Honda Civic with 19-year old Juan Carlo San Miguel behind the wheel suddenly hit the back of the taxi, causing it to spin and fall on its side.

Due to the impact, the 10 passengers of the FX taxi and the driver were injured and taken to Rizal Medical Center for treatment.

The 19, passengers had just come from a mall in Sta Rosa/Biñan, Tagaytay City when the accident happened.

Galvez said San Miguel faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in physical injuries.

He added that they were still investigating the cause of the accident although the police were looking at the possibility that the teen may have fallen asleep while driving or his brakes could have failed.

SPD chief vows to go all out vs gun ban violators

By Jaymee T. Gamil

AFTER JUST three weeks to go before the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls, the Southern Police District (SPD) is focused on the strict enforcement of the gun ban to ensure the conduct of peaceful elections in the area under its jurisdiction.

"In the past, we have found that the gun ban really decreases violent election-related incidents. We expect this to occur this polls here," SPD director Chief Supt. Jose Irene de los Santos said in a recent phone interview.

According to him, his men will apprehend anyone caught carrying firearms in public, "whether they are responsible with their guns or not, whether they are in authority or not."

At the same time, he clarified that the policemen assigned to all-around to carry their guns but only if they were on duty and dressed in the proper uniform.

The SPD, along with the Commission on Elections (Comelec), has deployed its men to 13 checkpoints scattered around the six cities and town municipality under its jurisdiction. Several police teams have also been ordered to go on patrol as part of efforts to establish "a visible presence."

De los Santos, however, admitted that it would be difficult to catch all gun ban violators. "It is impossible that we will stop some but not arrested we are watching out," he said.

De los Santos added that the Armed Forces' National Capital Region Command would also mobilize its personnel next week to provide assistance to the SPD.

Before the start of the month, two regions of shootings in the southern part of Metro Manila have been reported, according to the SPD Public Information Office.

In Muntinlupa City, a man was hit by a sticky bullet on Friday afternoon as he was having snacks with his coworkers at Tierra Villas Compound in Alabang.

Victorio Maurere was taken to Alabang Medical Clinic but he was declared dead on arrival by doctors.

The following day shots were fired at the house of former barangay captain Ricardo Francisco in Barangay 76, Zone 10, Pasay City by a man on a motorcycle.

Based on witnesses' accounts, a man identified as Jayzelle Moreno was the one who shot up Francisco's house.

Police said that Moreno had been under investigation for rape allegations. They added that they were looking into the possibility that this may have something to do with the shootings.

Meanwhile, no one used in violence have been reported to the Comelec offices in the cities of Makati and Pasay with the start of the filing period for executive of candidacy (COC).

In the first district of Makati which has 23 barangays, at least 20 people have filed their COCs for councilor while 16 have signified their intention to run for SK head.

There are 177,000 voters in the district, according to Jessel Jr. Jay Chatapon, election assistant.

On the other hand, more than 270 people are running for barangay posts in the first district of Pasay City while 65 are gunning for SK head, election assistant Godfrey Jaymo said.

Comelec local offices will be open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., until midnight on Oct. 23 to receive the COCs of prospective candidates.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit IV
Calabarzon

INVITATION TO BID FOR COFFEE SEEDLINGS

The Department of Agriculture-RFU IV, through the General Appropriations Act intends to apply the sum of P2,100,000.00 being the Agency Budget for the Calendar Year 2010 to payments under the Invitation to Bid for Coffee Seedlings. Bid received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The Department of Agriculture-RFU IV now invites bids for Coffee Seedlings.

Delivery Period: 30 calendar days
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 2,100,000.00
Address: Agricultural Center, Diliman, Quezon City

Bidding is open to all interested suppliers, contractors or consultants who are duly licensed and registered in the Philippines and have been in the business of supplying coffee seedlings for at least three (3) years and who are willing to offer the goods within the prescribed delivery period.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on October 4, 2010 from the Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). The Procuring Entity has the right to waive any requirement for the purchase of Bidding Documents.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Bidding Documents shall be received on October 18, 2010 @ 1:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

It is the responsibility of each Bidder to determine for itself the site conditions that may affect the cost of its bid and the implementation of the contract. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site before the bid submission deadline.

Bids must be submitted on or before November 1, 2010 @ 10:00 AM to the address and time below. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address and time below.

Prospective Bidders should have the following minimum qualifications to be considered eligible: a) Licensed and registered with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB); and b) Must possess a valid and current Certificate of Registration issued by the NWRB; and c) Must have at least three (3) similar contracts of water well drilling and should have completed at least one (1) project costing at least 50% of the ABC. Bidders must submit the following: a) Bidder's Eligibility Check; b) Technical Data Sheet; c) Statement of Ongoing and Completed Contracts.

The Bidder may offer any discount on the unit price of the goods offered. Discounted bid prices shall be considered in the evaluation and comparison of bids.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Ma. Elena C. Mabanta
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. No. (049) 536-0626
Telefax No. (049) 536-0626
Email Address: rfu4a@yahoo.com

(sgd.)
ENGR. MA. ELENA C. MABANTA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 4, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The BULACAN AGRICULTURAL STATE COLLEGE (BASC) Board of Trustees, formally and publicly announces that the SEARCH FOR THE PRESIDENCY is now open.

Applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Not less than forty-five (45) years old and not more than sixty-five (65) years old at the time of application for the position;
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3. Holder of an earned Academic degree from a reputable higher education institution;
4. Proven track record in administration preferably in the academe, whether in public or private HEIs, for at least five (5) years;
5. Has satisfactorily met those not positively carried out their mandated functions and responsibilities of any office including civil service eligibility, whenever the position is more than six (6) months;
6. Has not been dismissed from the service for cause as defined by law and/or the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service; and
7. Has no pending criminal case in any court of law.

Interested applicants must submit seven (7) sets/copies (one (1) set of original, and six (6) sets of certified photocopies) of the following documentary requirements:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to the CHED Chairperson
   Honorable Patricia B. Licuanan
   Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education
   4th Floor, HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue
   U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
2. Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV), notarized and signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of earned academic degree from the college;
4. Proposed Vision, Mission and Development Goals for the College, not out of at least 5 pages (maximum of 8 pages), using Times New Roman font size 11, with 1.5 spacing;
5. Original copies of Certificate of Appearance from the following government agencies obtained not more than three (3) months from the date of filing of the application, indicating that the applicant has no pending administrative and/or criminal cases:
   a. Ombudsman;
   b. Civil Service Commission (CSC);
   c. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
   d. Philippine National Police (PNP);
   e. Anti-Graft Court; and
   f. Certification from government employers;
6. Certified true copy of Service Record of the applicant in presently employed;
7. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician, preferably from the PHP National Headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo Clinic, or, if from any duly-accredited clinic other than the above, indicating that the applicant is presently employed;
8. Result of Neuropsychiatric Examination conducted by a government physician, preferably from the PHP National Headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo Clinic, or, if from any duly-accredited clinic other than the above, indicating that the applicant is presently employed;
9. Duly accomplished CHED Form 212, which can be made available; and
10. Any significant information that will show the aforementioned minimum qualifications, and certain submitted supporting documents pertinent to these minimum qualifications shall be disqualified from the Search Process.

Deadline for submission of application documents shall be on October 12, 2010 (Friday), 5:00 p.m.

Applications may submitted/sent application to:

Hon. Wilhelm C. Medrano
CHED Commissioner and
Chairperson, Governing Board – Bulacan Agricultural State College
Phoney San Bartolome, 1010 Quezon
Members: Ms. Gloria M. Cruz, Dean
Board Secretary

OR

Dr. Aurelio Bathan
Chairperson, Search Committee – BASC Presidency
Pampanga Agricultural College Graduate School
Magalang, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 931-1007
Members: Dr. Ted Sumpaid
Executive Secretary to the President

(PDI – Sept. 27, 29 & Oct. 4, 2010)

Metro
Citizen's call
0918-8965068

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT/
ENTERNAL AUDITOR

- Candidate must be a BS Accountancy graduate
- Required ability: General Accounting, General Audit, computerized accounting system, Financial Accounting and Analysis
- Can prepare written analysis of the monthly consolidated financial statements
- At least 1 year of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Evaluate/participate in all accounting functions
- CPA preferred but not necessary
- Possesses integrity, honesty and high ethical standards
- Ability to establish and maintain harmonious working relationship with co-workers, staff, & external contact as well as working effectively in a professional fiscal environment

KEY ACCOUNT
MANAGER (KAM)

- Must have at least 1 year experience in direct sales, i.e. selling of goods, products or services preferably cable systems.
- With background in the aspects of sales management whose principal handling is account management/servicing & prospecting
- With experience in handling major multinational account, preferred
- Must have the ability to work independently to meet targets and quotas
- Proactive & Excellent customer relationship
- Good communication skills, pleasant and good interpersonal skills.
- Presentation skill is an advantage.

Send resume to: Zagore Information Technologies, Inc.
Suite 2108 Tower II, Ayala Triangle Gardens
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave.
Makati City
Fax No.: 892-4963 / 892-4964
Email: jobs@zagore.com

Busy street corner turned into a taxi terminal

Mindoro, Quezon City Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) corner of Aurora Boulevard corner Timog Banica is being used as a taxi terminal. It is in every day, leaving only one lane passable.

Eric Alcantara/Sta. Mesa City

Man contributing to pollution

An old man beneath the footbridge of Quezon Avenue near Manila Doctors Bank has been burning plastic mixed with garbage under the footbridge for the past three months.

Julie Fernandez/St. Quezon City

Motorist wants more street lights in Quezon City

Quezon City roads are poorly lit. Driving one Saturday night from Payong Tomo in Makati, I passed by Sta. Ana in Manila and Kalentong in Mandaluyong. I noticed that these streets were very well lighted and I felt safe. Then from 5th Avenue corner 7th Makati, I turned right to R. Magsaysay going to Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City which was dark all the way to Cubao. It was so dark in other places as we wonder the city is called "Golden." Do more Quezon City can see more lights which can serve as a deterrent to crimes and increase the safety of residents.

E.J. Lopez, Sr./Quezon City

Jeepney drivers ignore sign

Please check the corner of Zaragoza and Sta. Clara Aguinaldo roles. You will see jeepney drivers waiting for passengers under sun. By no loading-unloading sign, causing heavy traffic every day. The same is in front of the MMDA satellite office below the flyover.

Franch, Jr./Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Quezon City Water District (QCWD) invites bidders to participate in the bidding of the Quezon City Water District (QCWD) invites bidders to participate in the bidding of the

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF DRILLING OF ONE (1) DEEPWELL (TUBOCAP PUMP) WITH TURNKEY PROJECT
Location	Sta. Teresa, Batasan Hills
Brief Description	Drilling of deepwell to a depth of 300 meters, gravel packing, installation of 250 mm dia. x 6 meters blank casing, 250 mm dia. x 24 meters screen, 250 mm dia. x 6 meters blank casing, 250 mm dia. x 6 meters sump, 200 mm dia. x 300 meters riser pipe, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge pipe, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction pipe, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge elbow, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction elbow, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge tee, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction tee, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge reducer, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction reducer, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge flange, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction flange, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge gasket, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction gasket, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge bolt and nut, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction bolt and nut, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge valve, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction valve, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge check valve, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction check valve, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge strainer, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction strainer, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge expansion joint, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction expansion joint, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge union, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction union, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge nipple, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction nipple, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge coupling, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction coupling, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge adapter, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction adapter, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge plug, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction plug, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge cap, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction cap, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge bushing, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction bushing, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge nipple, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction nipple, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge coupling, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction coupling, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge adapter, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction adapter, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge plug, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction plug, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge cap, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction cap, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters discharge bushing, 200 mm dia. x 6 meters suction bushing
ABC	P2,100,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions of the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB). Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on October 4, 2010 from the Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). The Procuring Entity has the right to waive any requirement for the purchase of Bidding Documents.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Quezon City Water District will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on October 18, 2010 @ 2:00 PM at the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Quezon City Water District, Corporate Office Building, Quezon City. This shall be open to all interested parties. However, only those who have purchased the bidding documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. Bidders are encouraged to visit the project site before the bid submission deadline.

Bids must be submitted on or before November 1, 2010 @ 10:00 AM to the address and time below. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address and time below.

Prospective Bidders should have the following minimum qualifications to be considered eligible: a) Licensed and registered with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB); and b) Must possess a valid and current Certificate of Registration issued by the NWRB; and c) Must have at least three (3) similar contracts of water well drilling and should have completed at least one (1) project costing at least 50% of the ABC. Bidders must submit the following: a) Bidder's Eligibility Check; b) Technical Data Sheet; c) Statement of Ongoing and Completed Contracts.

The Quezon City Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

The BAC Secretariat
Quezon City Water District
Fax: 3-37-37 Loyola Street, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City
Telefax No.: (02) 924-6027 to 29
Email Address: qcwd_bac@yahoo.com

(sgd.)
ENGR. ROMEO G. AVILES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 4, 2010)

MetroBriefs

2 alleged cops kill billiards player

TWO men who had altercation themselves as policeman shot and killed a 30-year-old man in front of other people as he was playing on a billiards hall on Saturday afternoon in Quezon City, a police report said. Records of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group identified the victim as Brandon Fajardo, a resident of Barangay San Antonio in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. Police said Fajardo, who sustained multiple gunshot wounds, died on his injuries several hours later at a nearby hospital. Witnesses said that the two identified themselves as policemen, shot the victim and then casually walked away. The victim's mother, Teresita, told the police that her son frequently went to the billiards hall and had no known enemies. Investigators said they had yet to determine whether the men who shot the victim were really policemen.

Mercy C. Cornejo

92 to undergo cleft palate operation

MAKATI City will welcome perfect new smiles this week with the start of a five-day surgical missions of Operation Smile Philippines at the Dipolog Medical Arts Care Center in Barangay Bel-Air. Operation Smile is a medical service volunteer organization offering free reconstructive surgical procedures to those with cleft lip or palates. A total of 178 patients were screened for eligibility at Dipolog during this weekend, with 92 scheduled for operation. Dipolog medical records clerk Janette Hernandez said. Some of the patients came from as far as Mindoro, she added.

Jaymee T. Gamil

BDMS SCARE

A trained dog sniffs the explosives bag left unattended at the parking lot of Rizal's World Music in Pasay City. The bag caused a bomb scare at the establishment which was hosting the Taiwan Festival, held in honor of St. Thomas.

BOMB SCARE

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ginoco

US to issue travel warning to Europe

THE STATE DEPARTMENT plans to issue an alert on Sunday (Monday in Manila) urging Americans traveling to Europe to be vigilant about possible terrorist attacks, an American official said on Saturday.

The decision to caution travelers comes as counterterrorism officials in Europe and the United States are assessing intelligence about possible plots originating in Pakistan and North Africa aimed at Britain, France and Germany.

A travel alert would merely urge extra caution during a specific time and would not discourage Americans from visiting Europe. The official, who did not want to be identified speaking about internal government deliberations, said a stronger "travel warning" that might advise Americans not to visit Europe was not under consideration.

European officials have been concerned about the impact on tourism and student travel from any official guidance to travelers to avoid.

The Associated Press first reported on Saturday the possibility that the State Department might caution travelers to Europe.

American intelligence officials said last week that they were pursuing reports of possible attacks against European cities, including information from a terrorist cleric of Afghan origin captured in Afghanistan in July. The German, said to be named Ahmed Sidiq, 36, from Hamburg, had traveled in the Waziristan region of Pakistan and received firearms and explosives training, a senior European official told The New York Times.

Sidiq described plans for attacks by small armed groups in European cities, the official said. Other officials have said such attacks might be modeled on the 2008 assault in Mumbai, India. Those attacks, attributed to a radical Islamic group in Pakistan, killed at least 172 people.

In August, the State Department issued a "worldwide alert," saying officials remained "concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks" against American overseas. Any new alert would presumably be more narrowly focused.

AFP

PLO: No halt to settlements, no peace talks

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—Direct talks with Israel will not resume unless it halts the building of Jewish settlements on occupied land, the Palestinian leadership said on Saturday.

US-backed peace talks, launched a month ago in Washington, were plunged into crisis this week by the end of a 10-month Israeli moratorium on new settlement building in the West Bank.

Israel has said it will not extend the freeze.

"The resumption of talks requires tangible steps, the first of them a freeze on settlements," Yasser Abed Rabbo, a senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official, said after a meeting of the body's executive committee in Ramallah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have held three rounds of face-to-face negotiations since Sept. 2.

"The Palestinian leadership holds Israel responsible for obstructing the negotiations," said Abed Rabbo. Abbas, head of the PLO, chaired the meeting.

US envoy George Mitchell, who met Arab League head Amr Moussa and intelligence chief Omar Suleiman in Cairo on Saturday, said the US remained committed to a two-state solution despite challenges.

Reuters

DRUIDS performing a pagan Samhain blessing ceremony at Stonehenge in Avebury, Wiltshire in southern England.

EPA

Druids recognized as religion in UK

LONDON—Druids have been worshipping the sun and earth for thousands of years in Europe, but now they can say they're practicing an officially recognized religion.

The ancient pagan tradition best known for gatherings at Stonehenge every summer solstice has been formally classified as religion under charity law for the first time in Britain, the national charity regulator said Saturday. That means Druids can receive exemptions from taxes on donations—and now have the same status as such mainstream religions as the Church of England.

The move gives an old practice new validity, said Phil Bayley, the chairman of the Druid Network.

Druids have practiced for thousands of years in Britain and in Celtic societies elsewhere in Europe. They worship natural forces such as thunder and the sun. And spirits say believe exist in trees, rivers, mountains and rivers. They do not worship a single god or creator, but seek to cultivate a harmonious relationship with the natural world.

Believers say modern Druidry is chiefly concerned with helping practitioners connect with nature and themselves through rituals, drawing and singing at Stonehenge and other sites throughout the country believed to be "sacred."

AP

Outrage in Guatemala over US syphilis study

GUATEMALA CITY—Guatemalans on Saturday discussed a US confession that it led a 1940S study in the Central American country in which hundreds of people were deliberately infected with gonorrhea or syphilis.

"No matter how much of a superpower it is, the United States cannot do this kind of experimentation," Mary Rodriguez, the chief of the human rights office in the archbishop of Guatemala's office, told reporters.

"They used Guatemalans as lab rats. It is important that family members receive some kind of compensation."

In a phone conversation with President Alvaro Colom on Friday, US President Barack Obama expressed his deep regret for the experiment conducted by US public health researchers in Guatemala between 1946 and 1948, and apologized "to all those affected." The study, which was never published, came to light this year after Wellesley College professor Susan Reverby stumbled upon archived documents outlining the 1940s experiment led by controversial US public health doctor John Cutler.

Cutler and his fellow researchers enrolled people in Guatemala, including mental patients, for the study, which aimed to find out if penicillin, relatively new in the 1940s, could be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

"There is no evidence study participants gave informed consent, and in fact... the subjects were deceived about what was being done to them," Collins told reporters.

Cutler, who also involved in a highly controversial study known as the Tuskegee Experiment in which hundreds of African American men with untreated syphilis were observed but given no treatment for 40 years, between 1932 and 1972.

Initially, the researchers infected female Guatemalan commercial sex workers with gonorrhea or syphilis, and then allowed them to have sexual contact with soldiers or prison inmates.

A total of some 1,500 people took part in the study. At least one patient died during the experiments, although it is not clear whether the death was from the tests or from an underlying medical problem.

AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Ex-militant leader held in Nigeria bombings

SAGAR, SENEGAL—A day after car bombs ripped through Nigeria's independence day celebrations in the capital, Abuja, killing at least 12 people, a former senior leader of the militant group that claimed responsibility has been arrested, Nigerian officials said on Saturday. The former leader, Henry Okah, of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, was arrested in South Africa, a senior government official and a spokeswoman for Nigeria's Inter-Security Service said. But the group, which has been waging a low-level insurgency against the Nigerian government over conditions in the nation's oil-producing region, denied that Okah had anything to do with the attacks.

NYT

US drug makers accused of ignoring price law

WASHINGTON—Drug manufacturers often flout a federal law that requires them to provide the government with pricing data needed to calculate discounts on medications prescribed for poor people under Medicaid, federal investigators say in a new report. The information is not submitted at all, is filed late or is incomplete, the investigators said, and as a result Medicaid overpays for prescription drugs. The problem, they said, could become more significant under President Barack Obama's new health care law, which increases the amount of the discounts and promises to add millions of people to the Medicaid rolls.

NYT

Germany marks 20th year of reunification

BERLIN—Germany Sunday celebrates the 20th anniversary of its reunification when the capitalist West and communist East merged after decades of Cold War division that ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Some a hundred thousand people were expected in the northern city of Bremen, which is hosting the celebrations this year, for street parties and events led by Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was brought up in East Germany. In a video podcast on the eve of the celebrations, Merkel paid tribute to East Germans for having "the courage to fight for freedom." "At the same time, there was a huge wave of solidarity from the people in West Germany. It enables to these joint efforts that we have been able to rebuild so quickly and make Germany a country that is respected in the World."

AFP

Ex-spy accused of espionage from prison

PORTLAND, OREGON—An ex-CIA spy slipped messages to his wartime prison through paper napkins and electronic bulls, despite the best efforts of the intelligence agency to monitor his communications, government prosecutors said in a pretrial filing. The Oregonian newspaper reports that according to court papers prosecutors filed Friday, Harold Nicholson, 58, sent his wife around the globe to collect what he considered to be his "pensions," and told the Russian government about his close relatives's debt. In the notes, prosecutors said, Nicholson sought financial assistance from the Russians and let them know he would help them if he could. The older Nicholson pleaded guilty in 1997 to conspiring to commit espionage after being paid $300,000 to pass CIA secrets to the Russians. He is serving more than 23 years at the federal prison in Sheridan, just south of Portland.

AP

Lula protegee likely to win Brazil polls

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—Though Dilma Rousseff is a political novice and lacks the charisma of her former boss, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, voters appear likely to make her the first woman president of Brazil in Sunday's election.

Opinion surveys show her leading by a wide margin and suggest that she could get more than 50 percent plus one vote of the valid vote, enough to squash by and avoid a runoff.

Rousseff, 62, was able to ride da Silva's popularity and make the election essentially a referendum on his eight years in office, a period of widespread prosperity that cemented the country as a rising global player.

"This turned out to be a predictable plebiscite, a thumbs-up for da Lula years," said Timothy J. Power, director of the Latin American Center at the University of Oxford.

Da Silva spent the better part of a year trying to introduce his chosen successor to Brazilians. She was initially unknown to the masses and not very dynamic in public.

Da Silva joined himself to her leg, remortaring the country in campaign on her behalf. He trumpeted his government's accomplishments and poured some of the credit to Rousseff, who also formerly served as his minister of energy and mines and as chairwoman of Petrobras, the Brazilian oil company.

NYT

SM CARES

SM cares for children and their future

Children are close to our hearts. That is why we've taken steps to make sure that our malls are as safe and child friendly as possible. We've also done efforts to ensure that our malls give children the opportunity to not just have fun but more importantly, to learn something new and feel secure wherever they visit us.

We have and will always be committed to helping the future generation reach its full potential. That is why we've developed programs aimed at making this a reality. It has all been made possible with the cooperation and participation of parents, tenant partners, different government agencies and non-government organizations.

Providing assistance for children

SM Supermalls always finds ways to look after the welfare of children. We have gone to great lengths to ensure the safety and security of children. We've trained our staff to make sure that it is able to respond to the needs of children properly.

Participating in the Global Handwashing Day

If children are to reach their full potential, they need to stay healthy. SM Supermalls is actively involved in worldwide wellness activities such as teaching children to wash their hands properly. This year, SM will participate once again in this global effort on October 15.

Getting involved in the National Children's Book Day

One of the best ways for children to continuously learn is to read books. SM Supermalls plays an active role in promoting love for books among children. Last July 20, it celebrated the National Children's Book Day to encourage children to develop a passion for reading.

Protecting the welfare of children

We've partnered with UNICEF and the Council for Welfare of the Children to implement pioneering programs that safeguard the rights and welfare of children. We promote this through re-orientation seminars held at SM Supermalls nationwide.

Nurturing the talent of the youth

SM Little Stars is an annual talent search for kids. Launched in partnership with theatre companies and the performance department of schools, it aims to help children tap into and develop their special talents.

Making Cyberzone child-friendly

Cyberzone has put into place a safe-for-kids program that protects children from threats like Internet child pornography. It also promotes child friendly protocol that is duly recognized by UNICEF.

Providing seasonal activities for children

Every year, SM Supermalls holds seasonal activities for children. During summer, it conducts work camps to groom budding entrepreneurs. The goal is to help children become more confident and arm them with the things they need to succeed.

This October, SM Supermalls is also launching a series of events just for kids. It kicks off with the UN Day celebration followed by one of the most favorite seasons of children – Halloween.

All these programs are geared towards helping parents, teachers and the country in raising and rearing children so they may grow up to be well-rounded and responsible citizens who contribute positively to the world.

"I believe SM is care for the children. There are no exposed outlets, and there are signages on the escalators. Shall like that make it comfortable for parents like me to bring the kids along to enjoy the mall."

Ms. Chargene Samson
Olongapo City

"With the re-basement (video realms entertainment) rooms they cater specially for kids, indeed SM is a child friendly mall."

Lolo Bonsaka
Baguio City

"It's nice to know that SM orchestrates events that cater to students or honing their knowledge and skills even away from school."

Maria Belinda Olimpiada
Consumer Inc

SM SUPERMALLS
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For inquiries, call (02) 831-7000 local 3886, text 0923-7017706/0917-8090589 or visit www.smsupermalls.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Roach** slams door on fans /A28

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ **Orcollo,** Alcano, Corteza reach Pattaya semis /A30

RP Patriots repulse Barracudas

Jittery start for defending champions; Slammers, Slingers score

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Patriots rallied on superstar Empenton to the final stretch to turn back the hard-fighting Brunei Barracudas, 71-63, yesterday at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City and join the opening weekend winners of the Air-Asia-Asean Basketball League.

GAME SATURDAY
(Ynares Sports Arena, Pasig)
5 p.m. — Air Force vs. Singapore Slingers

American import Anthony Johnson, who sustained a shin injury late in the game, powered the defending champion Patriots with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Dumdi Ulda, the other Patriots reinforcement, had 11 points, but the locals also stepped up with Sharon Vladez, Ervin Sta. Maria and Albert Mahid providing key contributions.

"It was an ugly win for us," said coach Louie Alas after the Patriots nearly blew a 12-point advantage, 65-53, in the second half.

"If not for our offensive strength, we could have lost. We played very sluggish defense. We were up [in double figures], then in just a few minutes it went down to one point."

Thai, Singapore fives prevail

In Bangkok, the Thailand Slammers nipped the Basic Lumpur Dragons in overtime, 79-74, at the start of the second season of the six-nation tournament at the Hindhaw National Stadium. Saturday night.

The Singapore Slingers also joined the early leaders after stopping Indonesia Garuda Muda Bintaran, 91-93, yesterday at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Chris Exeter unloaded 31 points, including nine straight at the start of the extra period to give the Slammers a 76-72 advantage.

Aaron Brown, the San Miguel Beer import who powered the Pantaro to the ABL championship last season to cop the Best Import award, added 14 points, seven rebounds and four blocks for the Slammers.

Filipino Rudy Lingganay, suiting up as a reinforcement for Kuala Lumpur, squeezed for the Dragons with 10 points.

Mohlet came through in the last two minutes with a layup and a three-point play that pushed the Patriots up, 63-59, after the Barracudas had threatened within a point, 60-59.

Big plays by last Patriots in

Sta. Maria and Antwan Cotton added nine points each, while Thaders dished out six of the Patriots' 13 assists.

"The last players I fielded in—Sta. Maria, Mahid and Chris James—were the ones who played well," said Alas. "As a team, we still have to work hard on our offensive game.

"Ala, it all need a pure center but I'm hoping that Ulda will come up with a big show in the coming games."

Chris Gamers paced the game for non-resident Barracuda with 23 points, while Filipino imports Bryan Rumolo and Kevin White combined for 23.

Apart from Rumolo and White, the Barracudas five also tapped former PBA player Chester Tolentino in reinforcer it.

Scoreline

PHILIPPINES 71—Johnson 24, Ulda 11, Cotton 9, Sta. Maria 9, Gamers 5, Alcano 4, Mahid 4, James 3, Tenorio 2, Fernandez 2, Alcano 0, Sta. Ana 0, Sangalang 0.

BRUNEI 63—Kamell 23, Jaminson 13, Farida 11, Rhine 10, Tan 2, Feng 0, Tabuenca 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 17-15, 29-31, 54-47, 71-63

ANTHONY Johnson of the Philippine Patriots steals the ball from behind Brunei's American reinforcement Chris Gamers in yesterday's Asean Basketball League match at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City. The hard-working Johnson posted game highs of 24 points and 13 rebounds as the defending champion RP squad prevailed, 71-63.

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Patafa: No more Asian Games stint for ban-breaker Banayag

By Nonnie S. Austria

EDGARDO BANAYAG will have to carry the country's name in marathon fight by his lonesome after the athletics association meted out a six-month suspension on the ace distance runner.

Banayag joined the International Caroline Interscholastic Marathon last Sept. 30 despite athletics chief Go Teng Kok's direction for marathon's dotted runners not to compete in a 42K event two months before a major event.

"Only Jhu are qualified for the women's marathon event, but I have no choice," said Go of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa). "She knows the rule."

Barrameda was also in the list of the Caroline 42K participants but not used to organizers that he—would not be able to make it.

The suspension means the 28-year-old Banayag won't be entitled to his P10,000 monthly allowances, an amount she said is not even enough to buy her shoes.

"My family really needs the money so I can invest in daily life. Go's only," said Banayag shortly after finishing seventh overall in her 10-km time in Caroline.

Banayag pocketed P123,000 for submitting the best time among local female runners. She timed two hours, 38 minutes and 35.9 seconds.

In the other Asiad, the Laos Southeast Asian Games gold medalist said she will aim for a third Mile Marathon title in the national finals set Dec. 12. The top finisher will get P300,000.

The other members of the athletics squad in the Guangzhou Asiad, dated Nov. 12 to 27, are long jumpers Henry Dagrell and Marestella Torres, hammer thrower Ismael Herrera, javelin thrower Danilo Fernando and Rosie Villarito and steeplechaser Igarsolin Dino Herrera.

BANAYAG: Family needed the cash.

Bimmahat leads muay thai tribute winners

LESSER NAMES stole the spotlight in the 2nd Muay thai finale of the Beer 2010 at the Camp Crame gym recently.

Unheralded Alaiber Bimmahat of Bagao answered to the fireworks filled eight-hour card by knocking out 2009 national champ Danilo Illing inside a minute of the first of three four-round 51 kg match in the tournament's Muay Amateur tribute of the Philippines' tribute to its late president, Robert Shirley.

Bimmahat's formando-bonus pool set a third-round knockout of Illing. Isaih Junior Blanco in the 49 kg.

Only Segrot Occidental's Ramnick Palmiano, the 2007 Asian champion, registered a stopper in the finale of the three sponsored by PTT Corp., Pendy's, and Trust condoms and hosted by 2010 Camp Crame champs headed by Senior Supt. Danilo Abrahan.

Debutant decked 20008 Olympic bronze gold medalist Alvin Salcedo in the first round of three 57 kg encounters.

The winners (1 kg — Jay Harold Dagpin (Cambanogay); Jonathan Palmiano (PTT Corp.); Jeffrey Bimmahat (Camp Crame); Danilo Illing (Pangasinan); 51 kg: Rondel Gerbert Dagpin; 2 Rafael Gallagher Alcantara; Jeffrey Bimmahat (Camp Crame); 54 kg: Jerry Cruz; 2: Ivy Jane Blanco; 57 kg: Jayar Salcedo (Mindoro); 2 Ed Andi Bagtas).

Roach slams door on fans

Says disruptions affecting training

By Roy Luarca

BAGUIO CITY—Manny Pacquiao's remaining sparring sessions at the Conception Sports Complex here will have to be held behind closed doors.

An obviously annoyed Freddie Roach yesterday said that, henceforth, only those invited in the ground-floor ground-level training camp will be given entry in the gym.

And Roach wants this to be strictly enforced.

A shambles ensued managed to sneak in late yesterday afternoon as Pacquiao sparred for four rounds with Michael Medina. More people were still knocking on the doors even after Roach ordered gym hands to shut them.

Although the no-camera, no-video restriction were being adhered to, the presence of too many onlookers still made the Trainer of the Year obviously perturbed.

"It's going to shut [gym] it down," Roach told sportswriters after the sparring that saw Pacquiao dominate the taller, rangier Medina (11-2, 9 knockouts) with his speed.

Pacquiao's next sparring session is slated Tuesday against either Medina or fellow Filipino welterweight Glenn Tapia.

Roach said he is pleased with Pacquiao's opponents, who—he is betting the fight to the seven-time, seven-division world champion.

"He's strong and fast," said the 24-year-old Medina (11-2 with 10 knockouts).

Tapia said he was particularly impressed with the way Pacquiao was able to punish his very tall fellow countryman.

Roach said he intends to cut down Pacquiao's sparring rounds from 120 to 100, but will bring in Brian Mackinnon and John Cesar Chavez Jr., both unbeaten, for variety.

Pacquiao, a 3-1 favorite to beat Margarito for the vacant WBC super welterweight crown on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas, is already all rounds and down to 147 pounds despite still ongoing fill-rounds.

The Filipino superstar's timing is still a bit off, but Roach said that time is on their side.

MANNY: Pacquiao now down to a flight-fit 147 pounds.

Doha Asiad champs missing in Guangzhou

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THREE WENT for a defending champion for Team Philippines to next month's Asian Games.

All four gold medalists in the Doha edition four years ago fail to make it to the 16th center in Guangzhou for different reasons.

Rosiers Vickito Pinto and Jesus Tipon, who both hauled-out sensational wins in the flyweight and bantamweight divisions, respectively, for the gold in Doha, were replaced with new talents in the 49 kg and 56 kg.

Nine-ball singles champion Antonio Gabica, also a silver medalist in the 8-ball singles, missed the chance to defend his crown after he repeatedly took on a heavy five-coaching job to the Qatari capital early this year.

The Guangzhou Asiad organizers scrapped weeks ahead Rene Catalan's 32 kg amateur event.

Charly Suarez (featherweight) and Rey Saludar (lightweight) will spearhead the six-man boxing team, along with lone female entry Aiman Alfonsi.

Boxing has been a traditional gold mine for the country in the Asiad with three-gold through Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, Reynaldo Galido and Elias Dequinan in the 1990 Hiroshima Games.

The new rules banning amateurs' Olympics Saludar (11), Delfin Bolcado and Wilfredo Lopez.

Billiards will again lean on a 14-man squad led by playing coach Efren "Bata" Reyes. [*See pool champ in Clean Living on the right.*]

Pinoles will place its hope on SEA Games champs Ishmael Bringas, Marlo Rivera, Warlene Martinez, Mary Jane Estimo, Mark Valdez, Daniel Bernardo and Dexter Labadon.

China team to watch in Asiad pool

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Mago

(1994's domination of two consecutive international billiards tournaments is a sign that it is the bankrolling the biggest drawer to the Philippines and Chinese-Taipei in the ranking Asian Games in Guangzhou, China on Nov. 12 to 27.

With a population of more than 1.2 billion, China has a huge field of pool talents.

Last Sept. 27, the Chinese star series, playing before a hometown crowd and displaying such feints, swept the men's and women's singles titles in the China Open hosted 6-ball Championships.

In men's singles, Chinese Huang Yuhong handily defeated Filipino veteran international Alcantara, 11-7, to pocket the $40,000 first prize money.

In the women's singles, reining titist Chen Siming topped former world 9-ball champion Pinoy of Bataan, 9-7, to bag the $20,000 winner's purse.

Chen, by the way, learned the ropes of 8-ball hands under the tutelage of Chinese Taipei's Wu Chia-ching, who set the record in the World Championship in 2005 when he was only 16.

Earlier last month, China's hot-shooting tandem of Fu Jianbo and Li Hewen shot down Filipinos Lorenzo Gerodias and Roberto Gaamo, 9-3, in the finals of the 2010 World Cup of Pool staged at Intramuros Place in Manila, Manila.

* * *

Based on China's recent performances, plus the absence of Filipino pool ace Gerodias, the Philippines and Chinese-Taipei could very well find their golden task unduly formidable in the Guangzhou Asiad.

The Philippines will be represented by four reigning and former world champions, namely Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who topped the 2010 World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Qatar; Ronnie Alcano (2006 in Manila), Alex Pagulayan (2004 in Taipei), and the dribbled Efren "Bata" Reyes (1998 in Bangkok).

Also in the 40 team are member specialist Marlon Manalo, former world No. 1 player Dennis Orcollo, Roberto Gomez, Warren Kiamco, Rodolfo Luat, Reynaldo Gonzales, Lee Vann Corteza, Ali Bid-Ahin Bacheso, and Ronnie cueist Baldoza Asuni, Jen Rotinda and Mary Ann Basas.

On the other hand, Chinese-Taipei is banking on similarly battle-tested players. It placed its men's and women's 9-ball squad last produced second billiards greats, among them Yang Ching-shun, the twenty-gizmo king, 981, the pool prodigy from Taichung County of Taipei, and former two-time world junior champion Pao Yi-hsi.

* * *

Who can the country's leading hopes overrun? According to Nancy Lexington of the Philippine Sharing Commission, sports governing body for billiards, the Pinoy cue ace with earnings of 191,180,346.47 at 60-Ball Poker Rookie, Bustamentan Jr. Lapus in second with 19,614,303.16 on 5th first-place money.

But is true sportsman Hector Rapinoe who made the biggest leap by making very third place with 19,541,600.56, behind 4th first-placed. Engineer, who did not fabricate action cues early this year, was previously listed only 52nd by the Philippines.

Other top earners: (1) Ali Ibn Hugo Jr., P5,398,395.95; (3) Hector Alano, P5,381,393.75; (6) Jose Nava, P4,862,865.04; (7) JG Lim, P4,756,725.20; (8) A. Pamboa Jr., P4,665,797.75; (10) R. Enriquez, P4,175,217.46; and (11) BC Ildefonso, P4,022,145.49.

Personalized teaching at Coach E

COACH E BASKETBALL School continues to adhere to scientific and personalized coaching methods five years after learning into the rage three years.

International Basketball Academy (IBA) setting president Joel Banzon said their methods are well-received by students.

"The school is more popular now but we are retaining any call to change," said Banzon of their new coach-per-five-students ratio.

Classes sponsored by 66-tenant Globe-tenants start at Chelsea Bldg. Libis on Oct. 8 (Friday) 9 to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 noon). The June Shaker's on Oct. 9 (Saturday) and Sunday 10 a.m. to 12 noon) and Easter San Juan on Oct. 13 (Monday and Thursday 4 to 6 p.m.).

For inquiries, call 6321199, 09064047 or 09088684847.

SPORTSWATCH

Murakami ties for 12th place in Mercurius Taiwan Masters

TAIPEI—Amateur Murakami closed out with a last-over par 71 to finish in a four-way for 12th place in the $500,000 Mercurius Taiwan Masters on Sunday.

With earlier rounds of 70-74-72, Murakami wound up at 67-over 286, which still earned him $7,250 in the winner. Thailand's Pariya Junhasavasdikul emerged with just a 72-hole total of 2-under 282.

AMY Peguinan (75-72-70-70) and Jennifer Lamyka (75-75-74-68) ended up in a six-way tie for 19th at 292 with each pocketing Sx, 926.

Mars Pauig finished at 2002 (72-70-78-72) and picked up $3,810.

Parlay, a licensed pilot, beat Taishan of Bangladesh with a par on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to win the $108,000 top prize.

He closed with a 71 at the Taipei Golf Club after the Taishan. The first Bangladesh to win on the Asian Tour, finished with a 71. Asian Tour News

PCAP 'Big Event' gets going

THE PHILIPPINE Carabao Association of the Philippines will host the "1st 6-Big Event 6-Ring Derby" at Makati Carabao starting at 1 p.m. today.

Sta. Rita Jr. and Sta. Rita Sta. Lucia topped the biennial field with four wins and one loss each.

Two more PCAP slugfests are set Oct. 11 and 25 before the Daughter of the Year is known.

Meanwhile, the semifinal round of the UGBA Heritage Cup National 6-Ring Derby will be on Thursday and the finals on Oct. 14.

For inquiries, call Mr. Bibich at Bayleaf 6887888, 7287444 or 09088820911.

San Juan stagfest fires off today

THE DEPUTY of Southern drag Bombers Association Inc. at San Juan Coliseum with the staging of the "Makiher Former and Sister 4-Drag Derby" which will have more than 70 fighter.

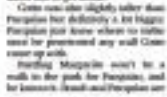
The championship extends to get P300,000 in guaranteed prize.

Meanwhile, the 2010 edition of "Exotic Big Event 6-Drag Derby" comes next on Wednesday. Entries must be submitted tomorrow between 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Also slated at SJC is the "Wild and Short 4-Drag Derby" on Oct. 8.

For inquiries, call 7256063 or 7255000.

The gentleman from Sarangani will be ready


ONE GAME AT A TIME

See Sarmiento

REPORTS FROM Baguio, where Manny Pacquiao is enabling for his Nov. 13 super welterweight title bout against Antonio Margarito, reveal that trainer Freddie Roach has instructed his star fighter to stay away from the ropes against the lanky fighter known as the "Tijuana Tornado."

The advice is prudent given that Margarito prefers with a nasty left uppercut when his prey is pinned on the ropes.

A peek at the Hispanic-Filipino Cotto fight on YouTube shows how successful the 5-foot-11 Mexican has been once an opponent's running space has been substantially reduced.

Margarito stopped Cotto in the 11th with a TKO. Cotto's left eye was a bloody mess and was pounded closely with a barrage of punches.

Against the plodding Joshua Clottey, who opted to slow along with Pacquiao, Margarito kept jabbing his hands down. Clottey's familiar one-armed defense to cover his face.

Margarito was on to win by unanimous decision. Interestingly, Clottey drew more respect in this fight than he did against Pacquiao.

* * *

So Pacquiao-Margarito will be an intriguing strategy showdown, which is the fight we get since Floyd Mayweather Jr. has so many issues and personal problems.

Margarito has to contend with Pacquiao's speed and power which has stopped 32 straight opponents since 2005. He will have to use his length (seemingly) to keep the Filipino-Congressman boxing.

Once Pacquiao manages to make a point of order by breaking down Margarito's defense, the Tornado will be in trouble.

Roach is also one traveled about Margarito's sturdy five-inch height edge because Pacquiao's speed will allow him to get inside.

Cotto runs also slightly taller than Pacquiao but definitely a bit bigger. Pacquiao just knew where to inflict most he possessed any wall Cotto came up with.

Battling Margarito won't be a walk in the park for Pacquiao, and he knows it. Roach and Pacquiao are already in environment to each other that they know how much time they need to prepare, and when to close the gym to thoroughgoing series.

* * *

Still and understandably so, all of the following blooms are trying to spot any slip in his preparation, any opportunity or physical discomfort like the foot injury that was reported.

His playing basketball has also been pointed out, but that's Pacquiao's cross training and way of dealing with the stress of the fight preparations.

Besides, it's more than playing games with teammates. He has told other pals to rebound the ball in case he needs to shoot three-point shots for him to have.

The worry-some here the possibility of an injury while playing hoops.

But no Filipino fighter wants quite like Pacquiao, and even before he departs for the Philippines, it's running in the United States, he will be ready to wage battle.

Pacquiao will have his physical conditioning and training down pat by the time the press conference before the fight takes place.

As long as the congressman stays away from the hustles of the sport, he should be able to crush the rail of the tornado and stop it good.

UNIGAMES SUPPORTER

Unigames president Roger Banzuela receives from Joel Banzon, managing director of Sonic Boxing, Motors and Mikasa basketballs and volleyballs to be used in the 2010 University Games (Unigames), set in Dumaguete City from Dec. 24 to 28. Sonic Boxing joins TMO Corp. and Gatorade Thirst Quencher as major sponsors of the games.

LEE Westwood stands at the forefront of a burning European charge. AFP

Europe aces looking good despite deficit

Americans standing on shaky Ryder Cup lead

NEWPORT, WALES—The Ryder Cup is heading for the first Monday finish in its 83-year history.

Rain pounded the Celtic Manor early Sunday morning and created small rivers running down some of the fairways. The matches already were seven hours behind because of a waterlogged course at the start of the event.

Officials say the course could not be ready for golf until at least noon (1 p.m. GMT) on Sunday, with an inspection an hour before that to decide if a further delay was required.

Still to come are the six cross matches that were halted on the front nine by darkness, followed by 12 singles. The Americans have a 6-4 lead, although Europe was leading in all six of the suspended matches.

The Americans were pretty satisfied when they went to lunch on Saturday with a 6-4 lead, but by the time darkness stopped play, it was Europe in the driving seat at Celtic Manor.

The visitors still had the lead. It just didn't feel that way. And with as much European blue on the scoreboard, it didn't even look that way.

"Momentum is key in these matches, and we haemorrhaged key putts," Europe captain Colin Montgomerie said. "And it's been a superb session from the moment that car set off."

No points are awarded until a match is over, but it was looking good for Europe—especially with Lee Westwood and Luke Donald handing Tiger Woods one of his worst beatings ever in a Ryder Cup. They were 4 up over Woods and Steve Stricker through nine holes.

"We say it wasn't a bad thing that it got dark," US captain Corey Pavin said.

About the only thing that resembled a typical Ryder Cup was 11 hours of golf on the highest level.

Sixteen players from both sides competed in pairs of three matches. The opening foursballs session ended before lunch, followed by six afternoon alternate-shot matches, and play finally was stopped with six matches of both formats still going on. On two occasions, a foursballs match allowed an alternate-shot match to play through.

"I'm not sure what day it is," Zach Johnson said.

Woods and Stricker were their second straight match convincingly, blowout Celtic Manor's a shark past and 23-year-old Rickie Fowler secured his a bizarre blunder by making a birdie on the 18th hole for an unlikely half-point. Phil Mickelson won his first match for Europe in six years and Westwood looked like a player on the verge of going to No. 1 in the world.

But the final two hours changed everything. Europe came roaring back, behind Westwood, Donald and a host of others, taking the lead in every match and pulling some 30,000 fans who stood in the crush back into the game.

"Although some of these games finished, obviously are are in a very, very strong position," Montgomerie said. "It was a very important two hours of play, and we came through it with flying colors."

AP

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Two more Filipinos join GM list

RP chessers face Estonia as Chess Olympiad enters final round

KRASNY MAKSHEEK, RUSSIA—On the eve of the final round of the 39th World Chess Olympiad, two Filipinos gained a share of the spotlight by finally receiving their Grandmaster titles.

Barcenilla, new hand in Texas with his family, and Salvador, who now lives in Italy, were officially conferred the GM title during the 81st FIDE Congress held at the Complex Arena Ugra here.

"We're happy to have two more new GMs," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay, who represented the two players along with secretary general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and FIDE representative Jeci Almeda. "They really deserved the titles."

The good news came as the Philippines prepared to take on Estonia in the 11th round, where the country hopes to steal a victory to improve on its 40th-place finish in the previous Olympiad.

GM Wesley So will play top board for the 57th-seeded Filipinos for the 10th time in 11 rounds. He will face GM Kadio Kobese (Ele 2592).

GM John Paul Gomez will take on GM Merlo Kiosy (Ele 2332). GM Darwin Laylo will battle IM Chu Sopp (Ele 2485) and IM Richard Bitoon will tackle IM Aleksandr Volodin (Ele 2418) in the other matches.

GM Eugene Torre, who played in his record 16th Olympiad in 40 years, took a rest. The 58-year-old Filipino has finished with 4.5 points on three wins, three draws and one loss.

Overall, the Filipinos are now tied for 32nd to 40th places with 32 points on five wins, four draws and three losses. After the Stevenson-Berger tiebreak, the Filipinos are in 31st place, or six notches higher than their starting rank of 37th place.

A victory seals a top 30 finish for the country.

Ukraine battles Israel, while Russia 1 plays Spain in the featured match-ups between the champion, Ukraine is nursing a one-point lead over Russia 1 going into the final round.

In the women's division, the Philippines faces No. 61-seed Brazil with Cherielle Chambon Camacho playing top board against IWM Juliana Terao.

Shoelle Cua meets IWM Amanda Bersain, Judy Thon Jose tackles Vanessa Swedo and Jedara Elodoro plays Ana Basilio Oliveiro.

They need to run over Brazil to duplicate, if not surpass, their 2008 Olympiad showing of 6th for 36th to 40th places.

Barcenilla and Salvador boosted the country's roster of GMs to 13. They join the distinguished list that include Torre, the late Rosendo Balinas, Rogelio Antonio Jr., Rorg Villanueva, Nelson Mariano, Mindo Panagsa, Layko, Jr., Jayson Gonzales, Gomez and Joseph Sanchez.

Barcenilla earned his third and last GM result in the 2009 Copper Stars tournament three-championship where he collected seven points in 11 games.

Salvador earned his third and final GM result during the 13th International Chess Tournament Primo-Porta San Giorgio held last Aug. 21 to 29 in Rome, Italy.

Standings after 10 rounds:
10 points—Ukraine (2)—Vassa L. M—Israel M—Poland, Hungary, Germany, Russia 1, Russia 2, Ukraine 2, Chile, Azerbaijan, Italy, Slovenia 2, USA, Cuba, Greece 2)—Czech Republic, Georgia, Belarus, Netherlands, England, Slovakia, Serbia, Brazil, India, Romania, Sweden, Austria, Slovenia 1, Denmark, 12—Philippines, Estonia, Lithuania, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Iran, Bosnia Herzegovina, Slovakia, Moldova, Belgium, Peru

Orcollo, Alcano, Corteza reach Pattaya s'finals

ERWIN ORCOLLO, Ronnie Alcano and Lee Van Corteza made it in the semifinals of the 2010 Sangsom-Pattaya 9-Ball International pool championship at the Royal Garden Plaza in the fo-mous Thai resort of Pattaya on Saturday.

Efren (Bata) Reyes had a chance to make it an all-Filipino cast in the Final-four but he absorbed a 9-3 upset loss to Dennis Taipei's Lai Hui Chiang, who advanced against Corteza.

Orcollo, the 2010 World Nine-Ball Championship champion, ousted Britain's Chris Melling, 9-3, and then disposed of Chinese-Taipei's Chao Chieh, 9-6, to set up a semifinal clash with Alcano, the 2006 World Nine-Ball champion.

Alcano stopped the winning run of Lee Cheesman of Hong Kong 9-4 before dipping past Jarvis Moore of the US with a pulsating 9-8 victory.

The 2010 US Open 10-Ball champion Corteza eliminated Thailand's Nitiwat Kaewjaroen, 9-4, before beating old Chinese Taipei's unbeaten Fu Che-wei, 9-7.

The 31-year-old Corteza of Jonathan Jay's Negrise Billiards Stable is hoping he could overcome Chiang to set up an all-RP title match.

Earlier Corteza crushed Kevin Stott of Britain 9-1 in the Round of 32. Orcollo overwhelmed Dphai Sreesamarat of Thailand 9-3, Alcano ripped Sombsan Timpradatong also of Thailand 9-5 while Reyes smashed Soeparp Saetang, a Indonesia boy, 9-1. Ronnie Antiporda/mbr

Lili Van Corteza will cheer her Chang Lai-hui of Chinese Taipei.

Lacson surprises veteran Ballester

VETERAN RAMIR Lacson stole the thunder from the favored Allan Ballester on his way to topping the men's division of the uwinhp event as diminutive Jessmyn Mahonga ruled the women's race in the emergence 21K event in the Naga leg of the 24th National Milo Marathon.

The 34-year-old Lacson clocked a personal best 1-hour 13 minutes and 16 seconds to outrun the former national team standout Ballester (1:13:34).

Allan Garcia wound up third by clocking 1:18.15.

"I'm just happy to finish the race while my foot rests," said Lacson, a building maintenance worker who also claimed second place in the Iuguazi City leg last year.

The winners of the 5K race to the national finals last year, Mahonga reigned supreme the women's race in scorching fashion.

Her clocking of 1:30:32 to score their 20 seconds faster than that of second placer Janice Cardus (1:31:52) and third placer Jessa Jean Pallosan (1:37:08).

The top-eight in both the men and women's divisions in the Naga leg qualified for the national finals in Manila on Dec. 12.

"I know it's going to be tough. Good[illegible] in the national finals but I will be ready," said the 19-year-old Mahonga, who hails from Laverna City.

The Naga race drew 7,725 participants, a marked improvement from the 5,000 runners who competed last year.

As part of the Milo Marathon sports advocacy, the company donated 150 pairs of shoes to Teodora Alonzo Elementary School in Naga City.

In Iloilo last week, Rene Denayo topped the men's race in 1:14:20 and toped 33 others to the finals. The 22-year-old Denayo placed fifth in last year's national finals. *Cebu[illegible] Pagsu*

Elorde scores tuneup KO

JUAN MARTIN "Sid" Elorde, grandson of the late world junior lightweight champion Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, knocked out Thailand's Mohamad Rhandee in the first round of their lightweight bout Saturday at the packed Elorde Grand Ballroom in Parañaque.

Elorde used the bout as a tuneup for his match against a still undecided foe in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito title 487 on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas.

Elorde caught Rhandee with a perfectly timed left uppercut that sent the Thai crashing to the canvas for good at the 2:04 mark of the opening round.

Elorde's unbeaten younger brother Jean Miguel "Mig" Elorde, welterweight Dennis Laurente and Women's International Boxing Association minimumweight champion Cherrylen Abanid also won their bouts. *Ronnie Mathieu/mbr*

ICTSI CIRCUIT

Juvic is Northwoods fave

By Manong R. Carullo

JUSTIC PAGUIRIGAN will be back one more time to earn the right to face the country's best golfers and hone in the prize to beat when the ICTSI circus resumes this week with the Northwoods leg in San Isidro, Batangas.

The 21-year-old ace has confirmed participation in the P1 million event after gaining a break from a hectic international schedule and will go for his third local crown this year.

Paguirigan won the Riviera and Apo legs in runaway fashion while contending in the last two stops and those records will be hard to ignore in the event coming off Oct. 6.

Hardie Ancera will be defending his first ever crown as a pro, even as several other stars headed by Antonio Lascuña, Mars Pacay and reigning SP Open champion Elmer Salvador are tipped to join the hunt for the P350,000 champion's prize.

Ancera will actually be trying to duplicate a feat only Paguirigan has pulled off in the three-year-old circuit, when Paguirigan repeated as Apo champion some three months ago.

The tournament, the 11th of a 13-leg circuit presented by ICTSI, will actually get off the ground with the traditional Pro-am tomorrow. The final two stops will be at the Valley Golf Club in Antipolo and the Canlubang layout in Laguna.

Paguirigan is looking to extend his grip on the Order of Merit race, which carries a special prize. He leads the field with a huge margin over Antonio Macalalad, who is running second in net playing this event together with other Asian Tour regulars Angelo Que and Jay Bayron.

PAGALINGAN: Two-leg winner

The tournament's other backers are Mt Carr Golf Management, Japan Sanei Boeki, Studio 21, Rado TV, Mizuno, Cleveland Golf, Callaway Golf, Odyssey and Golf Pride and media partners Inquirer Golf Monthly, A Round of Golf Philippines.com and Omnisports.

CHEERS! Members, officials and supporters of four-time NCAA cheerleading champion Perpetual Help celebrate after capping the 2010 Samsung NCAA Cheerleading Championship recently. Perpetual went home with P100,000. Major finished second and Jose Rizal U, third. Coach Jeff Halasan and choreographer Jayar headed Perpetual's bid.

20 MMC students get help from PBA Legends

THE PBA Legends USA Foundation recently awarded 20 nursing students of Manila Memorial Colleges in Caloocan City scholarship grants.

PBA Legends USA Foundation chair and president Abe King came to announce and award the scholarships to the deserving students of MMC.

The grants, which were facilitated by Bradford Marilous, were the foundation's way to reciprocate the help of MMC Batch 77, headed by MMC vice president, Dr. Elizabeth M. Dacillo.

MMC Batch 77 supported PBA Legends USA Foundation's various projects, including exhibition games among former PBA stars the past three years.

"It's an honor for our school to be the recipients of PBA Legends USA Foundation's generosity. Our students are very pleased for the support, it's really a great help to their family," said Marilous, who is MMC's director for admission and registration.

King also threw a challenge to MMC students to follow the example done by the Batch of 77 in supporting their alma mater.

"Once you're already earning and can have supported your family, please find your way to help your school who are from where you came from," said King to Filipino.

Editor Raul G. Manuelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

WB willing to finance P-Noy infra projects

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE WORLD Bank said it would want to take part in the Aquino administration's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program, adding that it was prepared to provide financing if the government would require it.

"We are willing to support the government in its Public-Private Partnership program given its potential for boosting growth," World Bank country director Bert Hofman said Friday.

The government's economic managers are preparing a forum on the PPP this month, and World Bank representatives have been invited to take part in the activity, Hofman said.

PPP seen to be worthwhile due to its potential to boost growth

During the forum, representatives from the government, development lenders like the World Bank, and private firms will sit down to discuss potential infrastructure projects, prioritizing those that are deemed necessary to attract more investments and sustain the economy's robust growth.

Under the PPP, the government will invite private sector firms to invest in vital public infrastructure projects. It is seen to be a prudent way to develop the country's infrastructure at a time when the government is facing a serious fiscal problem.

Creditors like the World Bank, and even commercial banks, are encouraged to provide loans to private firms which will, in turn, pour the funds in public infrastructure work.

"In the forum, we will be able to specifically determine projects to be

WB FINANCING, B12

US firms take a shine to RP power projects

By Arra B. Ramos

US companies have expressed interest in all 52 Philippine power generation projects presented during the wedding trip of President Aquino to the United States.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said the projects offered to US investors would be a mix of renewable energy and traditional fossil fuel sources.

Some of the projects are new proposals while a number already have existing service contracts, whose holders are currently looking for joint venture partners, he added.

US FIRMS, B12

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
43.880

STOCK MARKET
▼ 11.89

Consolidation seen this week

LOCAL STOCKS may consolidate with an upward bias this week as investors still await to cash additional income before the gain-bonding.

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange Index succumbed to profit-taking but it managed to rise by a modest

CONSOLIDATION, B6

IN THIS ISSUE

■ BPOs encourage 'home-sourcing' /B18

Dancing IOs and IPOs

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October 7-13	October 8-10	October 15-17	October 22-24

BUSINESS

RP firms score high on corporate governance

By Doris C. Dumlao

TAIPEI, PHILIPPINE companies scored high in corporate governance based on a regional benchmark by CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets.

Six of these companies landed in the top quartile, namely: Manila Water Co., Ayala Corp., Aboitiz Power, Energy Development Corp., Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands, according to a research report by CLSA Philippines dated Sept. 26.

Three of these stocks had garnered high corporate governance scores compared to peers from other countries in the region, the report said.

Corporate governance refers to the long-term management and oversight of the company in accordance with the principles of responsibility and transparency.

Other Philippine companies also made it to the second quartile. These are Ayala Land Inc., International Container Terminal Services Inc., Manila Electric Co., Philex Mining Co., SM Prime Holdings Inc. and SM Investments Corp.

Out of these 12 stocks, CLSA has a "buy" or "outperform" recommendation for nine of them: Manila Water, Ayala Corp., Aboitiz Power, EDC, BPI, Ayala Land, ICTSI, SM Prime and SM Investments.

CLSA's report on corporate governance analyzed companies specific measures on discipline, transparency, independence, accountability, responsibility and fairness.

Overall, CLSA sees improvements in the Philippines' overall ranking in corporate governance.

An earlier report dated Sept. 6, a collaboration between CLSA and the Asian Corporate Governance Association, showed the Philippines scoring at the bottom of 11 Asian countries.

"While the Philippines admittedly did not perform well in this year's [corporate governance] watch, this has to be taken in the context that this survey was conducted during the Aquino administration," the report said.

It said it was hoping that the government could speedily enact the kind of changes needed to improve in time for its next survey.

"With the Aquino government taking good governance as one of its major themes during the inauguration rites in President Aquino's inaugural speech, we see a strong possibility of the Philippines' corporate governance score improving in the next [CLSA] watch," the report said.

PNOC to sell 'banked gas'

By Amy R. Remo

EVEN AS the Philippine National Oil Co. plans to sell a portion of the P14 billion worth of "banked gas" it had purchased from the Department of Energy, while waiting for the Batangas-Manila (Batman 1) natural gas pipeline project to materialize.

A ranking official privy with the matter said that PNOC, should it push through with this decision, will have to decide whether it will bid out or sell directly to interested buyers a portion of the banked gas, which was earlier intended to be allocated for the $1.3-billion Batman 1 pipeline project.

For now, the source said that PNOC has already firmed up a joint "subregional banked gas" DOE-it offtake agreement with other energy agencies namely the National Power Corp., Bataan Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. and the DOE.

Under this agreement, PNOC intends to meet dispatch net initial 14.35 mmpscfd (in capacity) of the banked gas a day from the total 108.6 pure joules of banked gas that had been purchased from the DOE.

The banked gas was originally owned by Napocor. Due to the lower than-projected demand for electricity in the wake of the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 and delays in the availability of power transmission facilities, Napocor has accumulated unused supply of Malampaya gas.

Net foreign buying hits P11B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange attracted P11.4 billion in net foreign buying in the first nine months of the year, helping fuel the country stock market run up to a three-year high.

Compared to the P16.2 billion posted in the same period last year, however, net foreign buying fell by about 31 percent as the unprecedented third quarter rally tempted some investors to pocket gains.

In the first semester, net foreign buying amounted to P15.4 billion.

In a statement, the PSE said the 34.5 percent or 1,067.50 point rise in the main share PSE index for the nine-month period made the local index one of the best performing in Asia.

The market capitalization of all listed companies grew by 20 percent to P7.4 trillion from P5.9 trillion a year ago.

The most valuable group in the local stock market is that in the First Pacific group led by Manuel V. Pangilinan which recently branded the P1 trillion mark in combined market capitalization of the six listed companies where it holds controlling stakes: Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manila Electric Co., PLDT Communications and Energy Ventures (formerly Philpino Telephone Corp.), Philex Mining Corp., Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Manila Pacific Tollways Corp.

Quarter-on quarter, the PSEi jumped 322 percent to end September at 4,184.51. The benchmark also broke new records, striking a new historic high on Sept. 16 at 4,223.95.

Based on estimates, the average daily value turnover in the nine months to September grew to P4.1 billion from P3.3 billion a year ago.

"The unprecedented market performance reflected the robust fundamentals of the economy," PSE president and chief executive officer Hal Ammen Steimel said.

After narrowly escaping recession in 2009, Philippine gross domestic product accelerated by 7.9 percent year-on-year during the first semester. The 91-day benchmark and inflation rates have also remained benign.

In terms of sectoral indices, the consumer for holding firms emerged as the best performer during the period, climbing by 93.1 percent. This was followed by the property index which jumped by 43.2 percent. Companies in the industrial, financial, mining and oil, and services sectors also performed well as their indices surged by 40.1 percent, 40 percent, 16.8 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively.

Consolidation...

From page B1

0.01 percent to close the week at 4,113.99.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Dimen said the bias would still be upward, but the spike won't be too sharp as foreign buying was drawing down.

"When the market goes up too fast, the bargains disappear, so they tend to wait a little for the ones they like to come," he said.

Shrimp also said the market correction may last week, coupled with the upbeat vote set by Wall Street Friday night, could lead to retail investors to the week ahead.

"But in general, October will be a month of consolidation," he said.

As the same time, some investors may choose to look at gains to participate in upcoming initial public offerings such as that of lodged conglomerate Cebu Air Inc. The IPO of the Cebu Pacific operator would likely be at merrier given its "lean and mean" business model.

Shares in Alto Umbrella strategist Jonathan Ravelas said last week's close suggested a possible test of 4,200 level.

"Short-term support lies at the 4,000-4,050," he said.

Doris C. Dumlao

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Victor Abola, Ph.D. — Money Market, Bond Market and Valuation, The Stock Market
Alexander Gilles, CFA — Unit Investment Trust Funds, Mutual Funds, Variable Unit Linked Instruments
Rafael Ayuste
Edwin Pineda

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT
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Maybank

Breaktime

From page B6

WHATEVER happened to the rumors of the contracts of state-owned and -run casinos operators plus Executive-given Deposit?

It has been three long months since the nominees to the cabinets of the Deposit offices led by Deposit chair Celestino "Bong" Singalot.

At that time, Singalot announced he would review all the contracts done by Deposit under the administration of Gloriauna.

Questions on the legality of those contracts recently arose in congressional hearings. One question stands out in particular: Did Deposit hold public bidding for those contracts.

In one of the hearings, Singalot told the lawmakers: "Our silence is our answer."

Huh? such a cryptic answer to the serious business of congressional inquiry. But lawmakers were left guessing. One of them told me that, perhaps, Singalot meant to say there was no bidding.

In that case, all those contracts were illegal. Governments executives like Deposit must hold a bidding for any contract, right?

It has been months since Singalot started to review the contracts. I am not sure it really takes that long to find out whether the contracts underwent bidding.

Like in the congressional hearing, we are also getting nothing but "silence" from the new Deposit boss.

Germans 'comfortable' but cautious

By Abigail L. Ho

GERMAN BUSINESSES operating in the Philippines are now more "comfortable" with the economy and the business environment, but are still opting to take a wait-and-see stance with regard to new investments.

Klaus Schroeder, president of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said German companies here were bullish about the economic environment shared across all industries following the entry of the Aquino regime in July.

At the point, however, no concrete plans had been made for new investments as companies were still trying to gauge how the economy would look a few more months into the new administration.

"All (German) companies who are here are comfortable about their presence here, about the new government, they are optimistic, but they still want to wait and see what will happen," he explained. "Businesses want to see the ownership of the new government. Once they are sure of that, they will surely invest."

He said his group received signals or inquiries from German firms about the Philippines. Sectors of particular interest included telecommunications, business process outsourcing, and machinery.

Economic crew dues labored in the Philippines, he said. Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima would be going to Germany next month "to visit several cities, promote Peza, and invite German companies to come here."

Another area of interest for German firms was renewable energy (RE), according to German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) representative Bernd-Markus Liss.

He said GTZ was, in fact, helping with the formulation of the feed-in-tariff (FIT) incentives for RE projects.

The FIT guarantees the price of power produced from renewable sources, ensuring project proponents of revenues from their investments. This scheme also encourages investments in RE, both large-scale and small-scale, up to the household level.

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BUSINESS

Sell it for the marine

THE MANILA city government just struck the mother lode of taxation with a proposed ordinance by Vice Mayor Isko Moreno.

He used to be known as Francisco Domagoso, but in the true mold of all those actors-turned-politicians, the vice mayor apparently wanted to put his screen name to good use in getting votes during elections.

Anyway, Moreno is trying to sell his idea to the city council (translated in the proposed Ordinance No. 7355) that the city government should impose a "marine-wood usage tax."

It means that you give money to the city government whenever you use the sea. It is limited for the meantime to users of the Manila port. But who knows? With the precedent set, maybe someday the city will think of taxing the fish in the ocean, too.

Never mind that the taxes of this tax-achiever's subjects, once we learned to elementary school that when you say "marine," you actually refer to "water."

With water surrounding this archipelagic country, plus given the good example set by Manila, governments of all towns, cities and provinces along the shoreline can become rich beyond their wildest dream.

For that matter, because of such a "water usage tax," every governmental in this planet will no longer have to worry about money.

Another big source of the earth's surface is water, and some 97 percent of it is salt water, i.e. marine.

Just imagine the money-earning potential of this source.

* * *

THE MORENO tax measure was actually not joking in wanting to impose a "marine use" of P5,000 on every vessel that uses the ports in the city.

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautista III

If the vessel fails to pay the tax, according to the proposal, it cannot leave the port.

Unfortunately, some other people, including Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, seem to think it is a ridiculous idea.

Legally, for instance, the Moreno tax will violate the exclusive jurisdiction on ports that the law conferred on the Philippine Ports Authority.

Again, the term is "exclusive." To **JPE**, the proposal is patently illegal and highly questionable. He said whoever thought of it should have consulted legal experts first.

By the way, Vice Mayor Moreno is rumored to be taking up law at the Arellano University, which happens to be also in Manila.

* * *

TO JUSTIFY the imposition of the "marine usage tax," the Moreno ordinance points at the "Water Code" of the city. The code claimed that a part of Manila Bay is part of the city. Oops, the city government can claim jurisdiction over the sea and its uses, including the ports.

It seems to the city government, Manila Bay is similar to the city seat in which the city can collect parking fees.

Nobody has any idea how much the city actually collects in taxes parking fees, in the same way that nobody has any idea where the collectors go to.

Not surprisingly all the stakeholders in Metro Manila already accept of taxes parking as part of life, shrinking further the traffic-ridden space of the already congested streets. Beautiful!

Anyway, despite the flash of genius in the "marine parking" ordinance, **JPE** thinks that only the PBA has "the power of control, supervision and regulation over all ports in the country, whether public or private."

That means only the PBA has the legal wherewithal to impose and fix port fees.

BUSINESS

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All sold in the twinkling of an iPhone4

By Carrie Salcedo-Nartatez

TRUE: If we double iPhone 4, Apple's newest baby, is sexy and fun, but there's more to it than meets the eye. It can also be the ultimate mobile gadget for businesses and the corporate world.

Its enhanced multitasking and security features, the new device management capabilities and, more importantly for businesses, its improved enterprise integration features make iPhone 4 an ideal tool in a corporate environment.

Gil Genio, head of global business at Globe Telecom, says the telco expects corporate clients to account for a substantial share of its iPhone market and that this will impact positively on Globe's business line.

Only the best

"Business has always accounted for a significant portion of our postpaid base. I will say a majority of businessmen tend to use Globe's mobile phones for business. And within that segment, there are always that group of people and companies who are after the best possible e-mail device they can find," Genio said in an interview at Globe's iPhone 4 public launch on Sept. 26.

Genio admits though that when the first iPhone was introduced in the country businesses were skeptical. But given its longtime tie-up with Microsoft Exchange, they realized the phone was useful for business.

According to Genio, a growing number of global companies are now considering an iPhone. In the Philippines, he says, there are some major financial institutions that have decided to shift to iPhone.

Good job

"They said they will use and give their people iPhone because they have specific applications that only run in iPhone and that they trust the Apple system that allows integration in the device. Apple makes sure it works seamlessly across broadband and internet and it has done quite a good job having a really good software development environment."

Those companies usually have their IT people develop their applications and integrate them in their iPhones for their day-to-day use.

"In the past, even business people and executives have iPhones on top of the device given by their companies, but those were only for their personal use. Now, some companies extend some of the features of integrating the use of iPhone by its people. This is because we are able to somehow deem that they are fairly well and tightly integrated, that they can have their IT people construct applications that can be integrated in their iPhones," Genio says.

Strong encryption

iPhone 4 connects seamlessly to Microsoft Exchange and standard servers for corporate email, calendar and contacts. For its users-applications, a company can run the iPhone

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BUSINESS Monday

Reviving Manila with a fresh mandate

By Dante L. Lunas

MAYOR ALFREDO LIM is advocating the formation of the local business community, the task often falls to new kids-on-the-block, the Makati Business Club or the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

And for the most part, they do it well.

For some people, however, there are business issues that fall between the cracks that either organization fail to address, either because they are too large or are too engrossed in internal issues.

"Issues of the municipal level, ones are sometimes left unresolved," according to Manilenia Antonio "Tony" Calma-Ilano.

Calma-Ilano, who is better known for his work as a political strategist (most recently for the Nacionalista People's Coalition of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.), gathered his friends to set up a group that would concentrate on bringing to the fore the issues faced by the disparate business community in the City of Manila.

"There is so much potential in Manila that can be actualized if only the people involved are more united," he says.

The new kids on the group known as The Manila Mandate —an initiative of the Manila Economic Planning Inc. to return the city to its former status as a major center of international commerce and trade.

In particular, Calma-Ilano wants Manila-based firms to focus on improving ties with the economic powerhouses of China, India and the Asean.

"The Philippines already has enough businessmen focused on the United States and Europe," Calma-Ilano says. "There is need more resources focused on improving links with China, and others around Asia and the Middle East."

On the more economic level, the group is encouraging members who are interested in the development of specific areas to form committees that will oversee these projects.

Most importantly—unlike other business advocacy groups —The Manila Mandate will be divided into geographic areas of responsibility with prominent businessmen being given the task of coordinating and running affairs in their respective districts.

The area of South Manila, for example, will be led by Ronaldo S. Bagatsing, an advocate of urban renewal and development and an incumbent member of the House of Representatives, with Doris Magsaysay Ho, Greg Gy Licaros III, Aeling Pap-ol Rustia and Willy Ang.

The area of Intramuros will be handled by Emesto Rovero, Secretary General of TUCP and Roberto Lanuza, president of Lyceum University.

In the University Belt, the group is banking on the participation of Lydia Echusa, president of Far Eastern University; Bay Tea of the Mapua Institute of Technology and Gemmon Acha Ibn-Bernardo, a trustee of the University of the East, for support.

The San Lazaro-Sta. Cruz area, meanwhile, will be led by King Reyno, president of the Manila Jockey Club, and the affairs of the Port Area will be handled by businessmen Rolito Delgado.

The Tondo committee will be chaired by philanthropist Tony Evangelista, chair of New Kaisser Construction.

Finally, Binondo—the all important nexus of commerce and trade—will be handled by Pristine Pachengco, president of Malaysian Insurance, and businessmen Richard Ty and Manuel Sia.

So far, the group has issued 75 membership invitations. Some have already accepted, as Go, represented "a good mix" of entrepreneurs, diplomats, academics, organized labor, journalists, young professionals and business executives, according to Calma-Ilano.

The club meets bimonthly at the Manila Yacht Club, along Roxas Boulevard.

The Generation, The Manila mandate is not only an effort to revive the City of Manila and reverse the urban decay that has befallen some of its districts, but also to bring to life the entrepreneurial spirit of Manileños.

"You'd be surprised by the number of people and businesses not here in Manila," Calma-Ilano says. "It's about time we have our own group advocating our own issues."

If he is right about the potential of the city's potential, it will not be long before Manila finds itself competing to be the premier investment destination in a top-tier place for doing business.

GATHATEN

Pepsi Ayos Pinas! volunteers return to Hamilo Coast

HOLDING UP fists where they left off, Pepsi's volunteers for change continue in Pepsi Ayos Pinas! and its push volunteers return to Hamilo Coast in Nasugbu, Batangas for their second beach cleanup.

The second clean-up activities would include keeping the marine protected zones clean (no shave and to water), addressing the continuing erosion of shores mainly attributed to the area's reefs, and educating the youth on the importance of protecting the ocean.

Pepsi will conduct the beach cleanup in partnership with the Hamilo Coast residential and leisure community, the World Wide Fund for Nature - (WWF-Philippines) and Ocean Conservancy. Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit advocacy group promoting the protection and preservation of marine resources around the world, while WWF is the world's largest conservation organization.

Hamilo Coast forms part of the Verde Island Passage of the Coral Triangle, which is the center of marine biodiversity in the world. Comprised of 11 limestone-ringed coves demarcating Batangas and Cavite, the coastline needs continuous maintenance, prevention, and care to help maintain life recover from the harmful effects of illegal fishing, pandemics, climate change and pollution.

The first beach cleanup was held last May 14 to encourage the Filipino youth to accomplish something meaningful outside of their usual routines, while spending it in a fun and meaningful way.

It provided the youth with a valuable opportunity to witness and participate in the collective efforts of communities to restore and preserve vital marine ecosystems.

(For those interested in becoming a Pepsi Ayos Pinas! volunteer, visit www.pepsiayospinas.com or search for Pepsi Ayos Pinas! on Facebook.)

Good corporate governance has landed

IF THERE IS ONE aspect in the business environment that has improved in the last couple of years, it is in the standard of corporate governance in publicly listed companies, banks and other financial institutions.

As it used to public-private partnerships, the breakthrough initiatives were led by the private sector, specifically the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) and the Institute of Solidarity for Asia (ISA), with the full support of the stakeholders of corporations.

After all, the more who benefit most from good governance are the shareholders, employees, suppliers, financiers and their social contacts, such as the customers, community and environment.

That the private sector initiatives needed not have made much impact without the policy and implementation support from its public-sector partners.

Improving credibility

In this case, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) saw the improving credibility of the local listed companies as a means of generating more interest in its small market, to make it grow and be comparable with the rest of the region.

The regulators, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the Insurance Commission rallied around the issues for better governance of their constituents.

The cornerstone using institution have taken note of the growing interest and improvement in governance, which they reflected in their position in the country in general.

For instance, the Financial Standards Foundation has upgraded the Philippines to No. 23 out of 81 countries in the fields of compliance with banking, securities, insurance and corporate governance. The same situation was noted by World Competitiveness Yearbook, which is produced by IMD and by the Wall Street Journal.

On the other hand, the World Economic Forum seems to be putting in data/basis for the issues we have not noted any improvements.

This is a topic which the ICD and the ISA will discuss with BSP with the help of their local partner, the Makati Business Club.

This is probably the reason why, during the recent financial crisis brought about by the American housing mortgage/investment fiasco, the Philippine financial institutions were spared.

The solid conditions of our institutions was the result of strict, straight-out requirements of the BSP, which brought about improved ratios confidence in our banking system.

OECD recognized earlier the leading role of the Philippines in improving awareness and expertise in the field of corporate governance. It is for this reason that it organized the Asian Corporate Governance Summit in Manila in 2009.

Its ambition was not merely to comply with regulations of government bodies, but to move on to achieve superior performance of corporations as a result of good governance and become a reliable option for global investors interested in emerging markets.

The good governance practices in regard the separate of good governance principles even by combined private firms, small and family corporations, even by government agencies.

Now, around 30-36 percent of firms listed on the PSE have achieved satisfactory grades in the annual corporate scorecards conducted by ICD, Asian Law School and Institute of Financial Analysts.

What about the government corporations which have been the subject of much adverse publicity recently due to the absence of their board members and the surprises of their management?

To be fair, there are some GOCCs, who have taken the straight and narrow paths for the benefit of their stakeholders.

MAPping THE Future

Amb. Cesar B. Bautista

In the same vein, there are family-controlled firms and conglomerates run by the absolute majority (less who are still carving their paths to mainstream good governance.

Their board members, genuinely interested in achieving breakthrough results in their respective organizations, have been undergoing serious consultations with their more experienced colleagues in the form of board retreats and facilitation.

In the last couple of days, the industry giants Ayala Corporation and International Container Terminal Services Inc. were singled out by Hong Kong based CG Watch 2010 Report for "lack of transparency, and [some policy resolutions which are detrimental to their small shareholders".

The above groups of companies can take comfort from the fact that there are many opportunities for improvement that are now available, many of which can help them become world-class performers in a reasonably short timeframe.

Dr. David Nielson, the inventor of the Balanced Scorecard which was developed in Harvard Business School, was recently in Manila to assist Philippine organizations, both public and private in improving their level of governance with the use of appropriate strategies and with the proper measures of these strategies.

Role models

During the Governance Summit attended by hundreds of CEOs, Dr. Nielson noted that there are many solid firms that can be used as models for transformation such as those in the top 25 of the Corporate Governance Scorecard.

Many good practices can be shared by these firms with others who are willing to move up the ladder of excellence to keep up with the global demands.

SEC, BSP and the PSE have been tightening the pertinent regulations to achieve the same objectives. The ICD has more than 150 fellows who were selected on the basis of their education and experience on good governance, their values and their willingness to make Good Governance (GG) principles be the norm in the wider sphere of business and government communities.

We do not suffer from a lack of expertise. What is needed is "political will" of the corporations' top families to undertake change management steps and achieve performance upgrades through GG.

With the new administration under President Aquino, there is no reason to doubt that the pursuit of good governance at both the private and government sectors will continue in a faster rate.

One of the cornerstones of the governance projects, which the country has undertaken in partnership the ISA Millennium Challenge Corporation, is the adoption of the Performance Governance System (Balanced Scorecard) in six national government agencies and in some LGUs, championed by Dr. Jesus Estanislao of ISA/ISA. To date, some of our LGUs are already considered as among the best in the region.

With the no-nonsense approach against corruption by the President and with the adoption of good governance principles by the Philippine firms, business confidence is being pulled up, which should increase investment and make the local business comparable in size with the rest of our biggest neighbors.

Good governance

The Ten Tenets of Good Governance as espoused by the international community are really quite straightforward as shown below. The challenge for the boards is in the strict compliance to these tenets and in faithful execution:

1. Develop and execute a sound business strategy.

Shareholder return is optimized, in every board meeting, strategic issues are covered.

2. Establish a well structured and functioning board

Board creates value for the enterprise. Directors with proven competence and integrity, 30 percent of whom are independent.

3. Maintain a robust internal audit and control system

Independent operational effectiveness, data found, safeguard company assets, and ensure compliance. Report to the Board through the Audit Committee.

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The governing principle is "One Share, One Vote". The basic principle in corporate governance in an equitable, timely and transparent manner.

5. ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF FINANCIALS REPORTS AS WELL AS EXTERNAL AUDITING FUNCTION

External auditors must be beyond reproach, with transparent fees. Board Audit Committee appoints regular meetings with external auditors without management present.

6. RECOGNIZE AND MANAGE RISKS

Enterprise-wide Risk Management system should be in place and properly functioning.

A board committee should oversee this function in line with international frameworks.

7. ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT AN INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY REGIME.

Material information should be disclosed fully, fairly and accurately. Have written policies covering issues compliance of disclosure rules.

8. RESPECT AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF EMPLOYEES, COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Corporations should manage the social, environmental and governance aspects of their suppliers, creditors, community and environment with internal reviewers.

9. DO NOT ENGAGE IN ABUSIVE RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND INSIDER TRADING

Have a written policy on transactions with related parties, defining the transactions per accounting standards.

10. DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CULTURE OF ETHICS, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Adopt a code of ethics that guides corporate and individual behavior for strict compliance. Have a clear policy against offering, paying or receiving bribes. Designate the compliance officer to be responsible for the execution of the activities.

Indeed, the Good Governance Eight has landed on our country. If managed properly, governance may help address our priority objectives, which is generating meaningful employment opportunities to halve poverty to the next few years.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is the president emeritus Co-Chair of the National Competitiveness Council and former secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. Feedback at map@globelines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>.)

Eastwood City Cyberpark still top BPO employer

IN THE eyes of the local business process outsourcing (BPO) workforce, there is but one IT park that provides them the highest number of career opportunities: Eastwood City Cyberpark.

Located in Libis, Quezon City, Eastwood City Cyberpark registered an employment figure of 36,856 for 2009, the highest among all the registered information technology (IT) parks and buildings (ITBs) monitored by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza). The total figure was a 22 percent improvement from the employment figures in 2008.

But counting the non-BPO employment figures, such as banks, restaurants, shops and marketing-oriented companies in Eastwood City Cyberpark, the satellite city has provided jobs to more than 50,000 individuals, according to its developer, Megaworld Corp.

Eastwood City Cyberpark also registered improvements in succeeding years.

Export sales of the cyberpark's anchoring and collocating (I&O) locators rallied $348.31 million, an increase of 7.6 percent from 2008 figures.

The employees of Peza-registered companies continued for 196,712 billion in salaries, a surge of 10 percent from the P5.05 billion paid out during the previous year.

Among the top employers in Eastwood City Cyberpark are Outbank, eTelecare Global Solutions Inc., IBM Business Services, Sutherland Intl.

"We are pleased that despite the global economic challenges of 2009, Eastwood City Cyberpark still managed to post increases in the number of employees, exports and salaries. As the economy improves further in 2010, we expect 20 to 30 percent growth as we continue to be an excellent locator area for Eastwood City Cyberpark," Megaworld EVP for Business Development Jericho Go said.

"With the scheduled opening of our new Global One Condo building later this year and with the completion of many of our projects we as well as expansion of our existing locators, we will be able to open more job opportunities and further strengthen the local economy through new export revenue streams," Go declared.

Global One Condo is slated to become the 13th office building in Eastwood City Cyberpark, for an additional 34,000 square meters in prime office space.

It will also boost Megaworld's standing as the top BPO office lessor.

Notebooks find their way to penny-pinchers' heart

By Raquel F. Gorres

PHILIPS, top global PC maker HP has unveiled entry-level notebooks targeting the price-conscious consumers.

HP's new G series, comprising of 14-inch and 15.6-inch display notebooks powered by the new Intel® 2010 Core i3 and Core i5 processors will be available this month, starting at P37,990.

Some models have been fitted with a discrete graphics—a choice of 512 GB and 1 GB graphics cards.

As an entry-level notebook, the G series features a hard plastic casing unlike the higher priced HP Pavilion series that features soft-touch rubber finish. Nonetheless, the notebook has the good looks of its high-end kin as it incorporates the HP imprint finish, matte texture finish, mute power button, and tapered concave edges.

Coming in new flavors today, the new notebook only measures under 1.24 inch thin and weighs 2.2 kg. It features a 6-cell battery that offers up to 5.1 hours of computing time, a high definition LED display with HP BrightView technology and up to 500 GB hard disk storage.

HP also unveiled its new HP Mini 210. At a suggested retail price of P24,490, new comer to the battery life, quick access to the Internet without booting in the Windows operating system, wireless syncing of files to a PC, and the proprietary HP Media Suite that provides users a single location to organize, store and play multimedia contents.

The redesigned HP Mini 210, with a 10.1-inch display and 1.66 GHz Intel Atom N450 processor, is a little more than a mini, and features 90 percent keyboard size.

As it caters on for consumers, the G series notebooks come with an express repair warranty. HP service centers guarantee the repair of the notebook for particular problems (referring to battery, adapter, keyboard, or DVD) within 36 minutes once the notebook is turned over for repair.

The Compaq notebooks will go on sale, as a brand, will be positioned below the HP G series, Mateo said.

"The G series are targeting consumers who are looking for notebooks with performance, looks and value," he explained.

A perfect step-up to digital SLR

From page B11

ability to produce fantastic-looking 3D video—1,280 by 720 pixels (progressive) at 24 frames per second.

Specifications wise the D5000 is much closer to the D90 (the body alone already costs P47,000 to P52,000 for the kit that includes a Nikkor AF-S DX 18-105mm lens), which has the advantage of having an in-body focus motor (which you will not miss if your lenses, especially the current ones, already have focusing motors) and a continuous shot of 4.5 frames per second (versus the D5000's 4fps), a better viewfinder, a larger and better resolution LCD monitor and a depth of field preview.

No setting panel

Considering the comparison of the D5000's frame, it's easy to understand why Nikon designers decided to ditch the setting panel—a staple of more pro/professional-grade digital SLRs—as well as eliminate a number of direct access buttons.

By using the menu-driven display to control most of the basic dial and shutter/aperture, D5000 users may adjust shutter speed, aperture, image size and quality, white balance, ISO sensitivity, focus mode, auto focus area area, metering, D-Lighting, exposure bracketing, picture control, exposure and flash compensation, flash mode and even picture editing—steps that point and shoot camera users are familiar with.

What makes the D5000 also unique from its competitors is its flip-down and swivel LCD monitor, which is actually a first among Nikon cameras. It is mounted on an axis that folds down 90 degrees and rotates both left and right. This makes viewing a lot easier whenever you're holding the camera above your head or near the ground.

Location

But because of the location of the swiveling arm, the user may have difficulty using the LCD screen whenever the camera is attached to a tripod.

Apart from this, another quick shot that LCD screen is its resolution: it only has a total pixel count of 230,000, compared to the D90's 920,000 pixels or its closest competition, the Canon 500D, which also has 920,000 pixels.

However, you wouldn't mind those minor quirks considering that at its price range (a quick tour of Hidalgo street in Quiapo, Manila will reveal that this particular model may go for as low as P50,000), the D5000 puts quite a bit of competition for D90, especially since it has an updated version of the Expeed image processor (Multi-Active D-Lighting and face priority AF was improved), as well as contrast Live View AF, along with a connector for the optional GP-1 for those GPS.

Indeed, if you're looking for an entry-level digital SLR that possesses powerful features and image quality to install, the D5000 is no easy first choice.

In the twinkling . . .

From page B9

with the pocket's Mobile Device Management and Windows App Distribution.

Whether the information and data are in transit or stored in the device, they are kept secured with iPhone's device passcodes, restrictions and strong encryption methods. For the security of mail managed, iPhone has data protection that leverages the unique device passcode to generate the encryption keys.

In case of a lost or stolen iPhone, all data and settings can be cleared by issuing a remote wipe command from Exchange or a Mobile Device Management server.

According to published materials on this device, iPhone enables enterprises to encourage user-friendly deployment in hundreds or thousands of employees over Wi-Fi and 3G.

All sold out

The iPhone's bunch of sensational new features that make the device more powerful and easier to use. It has Face Time which allows video calling with other iPhone4 users, two cameras, one on the front and the other on the back; its Retina display offers the sharpest and vibrant high-resolution screen with four times the pixel count of previous iPhone models; enhanced multitasking capability, that allows you to use third-party apps and switch instantly without slowing down the performance of the foreground app or draining the battery unnecessarily; a user-powerful HD video recording and editing, and a 5-megapixel camera with LED flash.

iPhone4 was launched in the country in late September, then months after its introduction in the United States and other major markets. Globe Telecom, the official carrier of iPhone, held a corporate launch on Sept. 24. On Sept. 28, it held a one-day launch to the public in two hotels, the New World Hotel and Shangri-La Manila, where clients who had made reservations via the Internet picked up their units.

About 650 people were deployed by Globe to man the 160 stations set up to accommodate claims and activate the handsets.

Globe people were mum on how many units were sold at the ends of the day. But it appears that all stocks have been sold out in the swiveling of an eye.

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INFOTECH

A perfect step-up to digital SLR

Text and photos by Charles E. Bolser

THE development of "entry-level" digital SLRs was a welcome relief for so many of us who could only dream of owning a Nikon D3X, which costs almost P400,000 for the body only, or a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III, which the body-alone costs P250,000.

While the more affordable (figure) SLRs may not possess the sophisticated image processing engines, focusing systems or the tough bodies of their top tier cousins, they could easily outperform most expensive point-and-shoot cameras.

For those who are looking to move up to digital SLR photography, they will be rewarded with so many excellent choices from all major camera makers.

Poster child

The top dog in Nikon's line of entry-level digital SLR, the D5000.

At first glance, the P45,000 D5000 (the price already includes the bundled Nikkor AF-S DX 18-105mm lens) seems like the poster child for entry-level digital SLR cameras, with its compact size, absence of a settings panel atop the top, small optical viewfinder, as well as a low-resolution and below average sized (2.7-inch) preview screen.

But upon closer inspection, the D5000 reveals features that are only available in Nikon's higher-end models, such as CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) sensors instead of CCD (charge coupled device) that has long been a staple in this range; a 11-3 megapixel sensor, an 11 point autofocus system with 3D focus tracking (the same one installed in the midrange D90), a live-view mode, and the

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BUSINESS

DOF bucks pleas to exempt electricity from VAT

Agency proposes use of VAT take for pro-poor programs

By Michelle R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has rejected proposals to exempt electricity from the value-added tax, saying the proposed tax break would deny the government P114 billion a year in revenue and still mainly benefit high-income earners.

Instead of lifting VAT on electricity, the DOF said the government must instead allocate portions of the government's VAT collection for pro-poor programs, such as additional subsidy to the country's poorest households.

Proposals to lift VAT on electricity are being revived in Congress as some legislators said such a move would ease the burden on electricity consumers, especially the poor.

However, the DOF said in a position paper that withdrawing the VAT on power would benefit the rich more than the poor, because high-income earners consume the most electricity and that poor households allocate just a small portion of their income for power.

In its study, the DOF said Filipino households earning a maximum of P80,000 a year account for only 6.6 percent of total electricity consumption of households in the country.

On the other hand, households earning at least P80,000 a year account for 93.4 percent of total electricity consumption of Filipino families.

"The DOF has always supported proposals to help the most needy sectors of the economy, especially during challenging times. However, based on our studies, we learned that suspending VAT on power may not benefit the sectors that really need government assistance," the DOF said in the paper submitted to both houses of Congress.

The DOF said it would be wiser for the government to be allowed to continue collecting VAT on power and then redirect use a portion of VAT collection to expand the coverage of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

Under the program, the government grants a cash allowance to the poorest households.

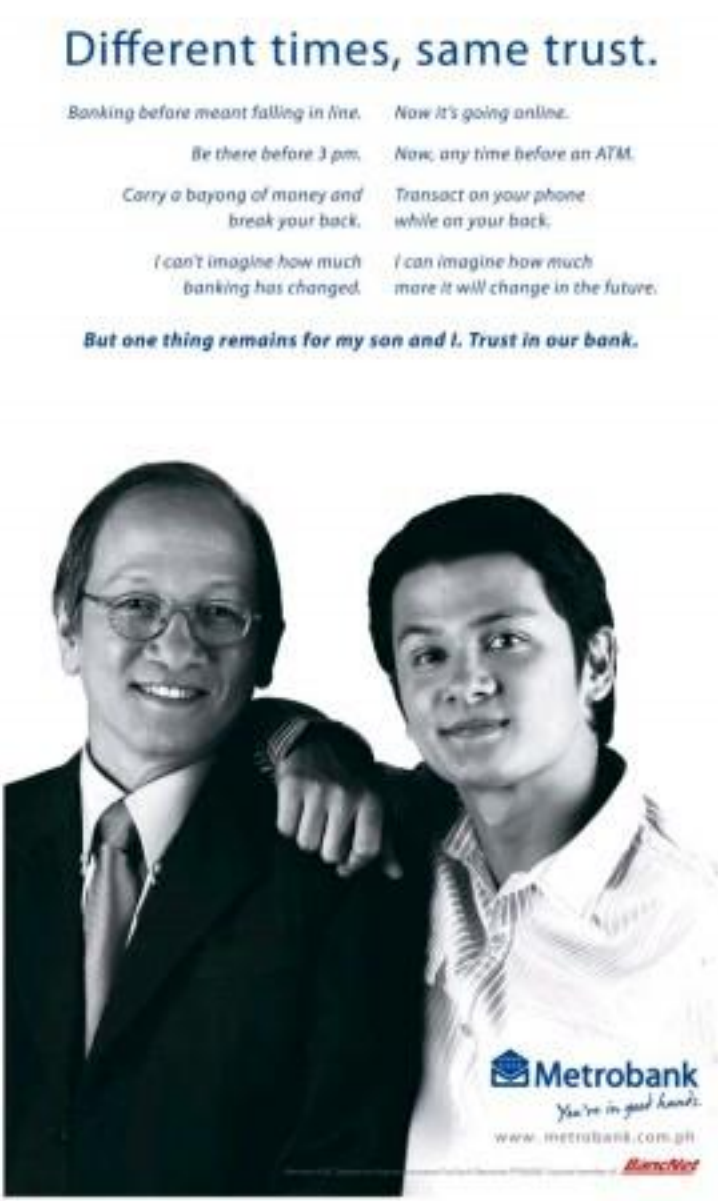
Recipients are required to send children to school and mothers should regularly visit public health centers.

The DOF said expanding the CCT would directly benefit the poor.

Moreover, the DOF said VAT on electricity is a common form of tax in many countries around the world.

It added that the 12-percent VAT in the Philippines is actually lower than in some countries.

VAT on power has the following rates in other countries: 15 percent in Germany, 20 percent in Austria, 21 percent in Belgium, 20.6 percent in France, 24 percent in Greece and 17.5 percent in the Netherlands.



Visayas WESM set to start operations

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is set to establish the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) in the Visayas by November this year, a move that is eagerly awaited by power generation companies operating in the island.

"It's sometime in November that it the running schedule, although ... there are some technical issues that need to be resolved," said Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras in an interview.

Almendras added that he had not received any more adverse reactions from electric cooperatives...which earlier raised concerns that power prices would increase once the WESM kicks in, given the tight supply in the island.

According to the energy chief, these electric cooperatives, which earlier opposed the establishment of WESM in the Visayas, have instead started signing bilateral contracts with the

VISAYAS, B-3

Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project revived

DOE, NGCP agree on need to pursue deal to secure country's power supply

By Amy R. Remo

THE LEYTE-MINDANAO interconnection project may finally push through as the Department of Energy and National Grid Corp. of the Philippines have agreed that the multi-billion peso project will help secure the country's power supply.

"If it can be done, we should do it. In the scheme of things in the future, you want the flexibility to be able to move power to wherever you need it," said Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras in an interview.

According to Almendras, a Japanese firm has expressed interest in constructing the LMIP, which is estimated to cost P10 billion. It was not clear though whether the Japanese company, which he declined to identify, would partner with NGCP.

The interconnection project involves a 230-kilovolt high-voltage direct current bipolar link with a total transfer capacity of 500 megawatts (MW), as well as a 405-kilometer long overhead line and 230-kilovolt line cable. It would start at the Ormoc Converter Station in Leyte and end at the Kidapawan Converter station in Northcentral Mindanao via Southern Leyte and Southeastern Mindanao.

As the private operator of the country's national transmission network, NGCP is tasked to undertake projects under the grid development plan.

But it was also NGCP who earlier told Almendras that the LMIP—which is meant to complete the country's grid loop—was not feasible due to several technical issues that may hamper the construction.

It has since decided to take a second look at the project.

"Right now, we're just going to study (the project). I have to discuss this with the Chinese partners because somehow we have different points of view (about the LMIP). Only the [feasibility] study can resolve that, but surely cables measure also," said NGCP president Henry Yu Jr.

NGCP spokesperson Cynthia Alabastro added that the feasibility study was necessary to determine whether it will be in the best interest of the grid and consumers to construct the LMIP, which may entail additional costs for consumers.

"Of course we want to stay ahead of the game. We want to build that in time to accommodate the actual market, when more supply becomes available," Alabastro said.

When completed, and approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission, the Leyte-Mindanao interconnection will allow the export of available power from Leyte to Mindanao and vice-versa.

"Private investors will be encouraged to build the necessary baseload power plants since they will be able to export available energy to islands outside of Mindanao," the NGCP explained.

The project was also envisioned to jumpstart the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) for Mindanao, which remains in the pipeline.

The LMIP was among the projects considered as "crucial" by the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) prior to its privatization and the takeover by the NGCP.

Visayas WESM . . .

From page B13

power generation companies.

WESM, which is operated by the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), operates like the Philippine Stock Exchange except that it trades electricity instead of shares of stock. It provides a platform for power generation companies to sell their electricity to distribution utilities and cooperatives at competitive prices.

Hanis Pangilinan, PEMC head for corporate planning and communications, said the group had completed the trials for WESM Visayas, which began last July.

"We have to ask further directions from the DOE to see when it would be the appropriate time to conduct the WESM," Pangilinan said.

Almendras earlier said that having a WESM would also help secure power supply in the Visayas over the long term, since this could draw investments from interested investors.

"When all those generation capacity comes in, this will be beneficial to the distribution utilities and electric cooperatives," he said.

The Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa), Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Shrine Power Corp. were among the groups that called for the immediate establishment of WESM Visayas.

Jay Cunningham, vice president for business development at Shrine Power, stressed in an earlier presentation that a viable WESM was crucial in attracting investments in new coal-or hydro power generation projects.

WB willing . . .

From page B1

supported," Hofman said.

The government has stressed the need to boost infrastructure investments to shore up foreign investments.

The Philippines has been lagging behind its neighboring countries in attracting foreign direct investments because of poor infrastructure in the country, economists said.

Economic managers said the government's annual spending on infrastructure came in at below 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product—way below the 5 percent of GDP target.

They said this was because of the government's huge budget deficit, which this year could reach P325 billion—possibly the highest in the country's history.

Although the Philippines managed to keep its economy afloat even at the height of the global financial crisis in 2008, the government said the growth rate would not be sufficient to reduce poverty in the country.

The Philippines grew by an average of 4.9 percent over the past decade, but economists said the country would need to sustain growth of at least 7 percent over the medium-term in order to reduce poverty.

Analysts said that poverty incidence in 2009 could be no different from that reported in 2006, when 33 percent of the population lived below the poverty line.

Hofman said the government should strongly pursue the PPP and the conditional cash transfer program to help reduce poverty.

Conditional cash transfer refers to the government grant of monthly allowance to selected poor households. Recipients are only required to send their children to school, while mothers need to regularly visit health centers.

US firms take . . .

From page B1

In a briefing last week, Almendras said that aside from bagging the $1 billion investment from power giant AES-Corp., the Philippine government, more importantly, had reassured the investors of US companies in local projects, which included Expressjet's proposed power plant.

"I think the real success of the [US] delegation and the attention we seem to have gotten lends to the Philippines—a sense of hope that people are taking notice of the Philippines again. There are analysts saying yes, we're back in the ballgame," he explained.

But Almendras declined to identify the many companies that government representatives had talked to and which had expressed interest to invest in the Philippine energy sector.

"In addition to the AES deal, there have been other companies, especially for the renewable energy sector, which are very interested. It's just that ... that's the rule of the President—no announcements unless the deals have been signed and confirmed," he said.

Almendras also revealed that AES could start the construction of new facilities next year. AES plans to expand the current capacity of the 650-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales by another 600 MW.

He said that it would be ideal for the company to start construction in 2011 so that the power plant would be up and running by 2014.

By that time, the Luzon grid would need 600 MW in additional capacity to meet increasing businesses, Almendras added.

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Local, regional insurance firms hike market share

By Konrad W. Domingo

Growth prospects good for Asian players, Euromoney says

BIGGER AND domestic insurance firms are getting a bigger share of the insurance market as purchases of policies have shifted away from global insurers, according to a poll by Euromoney magazine.

Consumer buyers "felt that they were best getting better service from the big players" and so they turned to smaller firms, associate publisher William Powell said in an interview.

Powell added that a looming drive to consolidation among multilaterals is expected to provide growth opportunities to the smaller players, especially those in Asia.

"With new regulations coming in to effect through Europe, larger global players may be required to set aside more capital," he said, leaving us the need to match capital with charge.

Powell said such regulations may push the big players to leave certain markets by selling their units to insurers where they have been planning to expand.

In this light, "the insurance industry in Asia is developing faster than previously thought," he added.

Powell was citing results of the London-based magazine's latest insurance survey, respondents of which voted the Pioneer group the best insurers in Asia.

Powell said the poll showed that buyers gave more credit to the solidity of insurer's services as well as the appropriateness of the products that are made available than to the size of the insurer's operations.

The Pioneer group, which has separate websites for the life and non-life markets, was also voted best insurer in the Philippines for the second year in a row.

Also, Pioneer was given two sub awards—best insurer in Asia for general property and casualty coverage as well as for employer/individual.

The international finance monthly conducted the survey from February to April through online questionnaires and interviews with officials of direct buyers of insurance, including risk managers, chief financial officers, insurance managers, heads of treasury and vice presidents.

This year's survey yielded about 1,800 responses from some 50 countries.

LOCAL, B-3

Public Sealed Bidding
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COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL LOTS IN PARAÑAQUE

PAMPANGA

ISABELA

Metrobank bags another award

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) was named Best Domestic Bank in the Philippines by Asiamoney in its annual Best Bank Awards.

The award is the latest in a string of accolades for the group, including Best Managed Company in the Philippines, also by Asiamoney, and Best Bank in the Philippines by Euromoney.

The most recent recognition cites Metrobank for its efforts in strengthening its balance sheet, improvements in corporate governance and investor relations, increased transparency to its stakeholders, and strong share price performance. The bank has been attracting increased attention for its recent accomplishments. It's an absolute 13-month performance. Metrobank shares rose 94% to close at Php45.50 as the end of 2009.

"It is an honor to receive this award from Asiamoney," said Metrobank Chairman Antonio S. Abacan Jr. Metrobank has always remained true to its commitment to being the benchmark for its customers, driven by our value for trust, leadership, and service."

For over a decade now, the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards has been honoring financial institutions all over the region for outstanding business performance. The selection is based on independent research by the publication and discussions with readers especially including analysts and fund managers. Also taken into account are the institution's balance sheet performance, return-on-investment, share price and new business undertakings.

Asiamoney is a financial monthly publication that provides discerning reporting and analysis of financial and investment markets for capital raisers, investors, institutional investors, and senior corporate and government monetary decision-makers with business interests in Asia-Pacific countries.

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ISAGANI J. SANTIAGO
Chairman
HDP Phase I Committee

DOE helps Aboitiz unit forge supply contracts

By Amy R. Remo

TO PUT an end to the power outages in Mindanao, the Department of Energy (DOE) has recommended to Isla Aboitiz unit Therma Marine Inc. (TMI) service power supply contracts with the distribution utilities in the island for Power Barges 117 and 118.

These two barges have a combined capacity of 200 megawatts (MW) and can fill the supply gap in Mindanao, which has been suffering from recurring power interruptions lasting up to five hours in certain provinces.

Data from National Grid Corporation of the Philippines showed that in September, Mindanao's system lacked 137 megawatts (MW), which can be covered by the two diesel-fed barges.

TMI, however, does not have a supply contract with the electric cooperatives and distribution utilities in Mindanao.

It has only managed to sign a contract with NGCP for 58 MW per barge.

According to NGCP, it has not been making full use of the power barges because of the high electricity cost.

"The high rate charged by TMI for these diesel-run power barges may be a reason why TMI is unable to secure a power supply contract with distribution utilities," NGCP added.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras, meanwhile, has tasked the National Electrification Administration to help the electric cooperatives negotiate a power supply deal with TMI and other generating companies.

Aside from helping TMI secure power contracts, the DOE has also directed PNOC Exploration Corp. to study the feasibility of reopening and rehabilitating power generation assets that have either been placed under preservation or were decommissioned, as part of the solutions being mulled to increase power supply in Mindanao.

According to Almendras, these power facilities will be used in Mindanao in the short term to help boost the generation capacity in the island, which has long been heavily dependent on cheaper, but weather dependent, hydropower sources.

Last Friday, NGCP said that the power shortage in Mindanao may last up to the end of the year.

But if Corpus, another adviser to the president at NGCP, said the power outages were due to the fact that the actual power supply cannot meet the 4-5 percent growth in demand for energy in the island.

Therma Marine set to deploy 200-MW power barges

Local, regional insurance firms ...

From page B1-1

Pioneer Life Inc. chief executive Lorenzo Clemente said the company has established an efforts to serve a bigger market by offering low premium as well as "bundled" policies.

Clem said Pioneer was developing policies that bundle coverages such as accident, burial and property damage under one, in light of heightened awareness among people about the importance of getting insured.

As for the non-life market, Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp. chief executive David Goyukian said the company was able to surely "fairly promptly" claims arising from the floods brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009.

"In hindsight, we could have done better in terms of minimizing [customer] inconveniences in processing the claims," Goyukian said. "We have learned a lot and we are confident we can give better service in the future."

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Bid

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MCB-WB-EC-01-2010

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act CY 2010 intends to apply the cost to the following projects:

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MCB-WB-EC-01-2010	Procurement of Air Conditioning Units	1,750,000.00	1,000.00

2. This DOH now invites bids for the procurement of the above-capton packages. Delivery of the Goods is requested by thirty five (35) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat, 3/F Building II, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 4 to 22, 2010 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php2, 000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on the 3rd session and Opening of Bids at the address given below:

Bids	Particular	Activities (Bids & Time)	
		Pre-Bid Conference	Submission & Opening of Bids
MCB-WB-EC-01-2010	Procurement of Air Conditioning Units	October 13, 2010 9:00am	October 22, 2010 9:00am

7. Bids must be submitted in the address stated herein. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated below:

Form of Bid Security	Amount of Bid Security (Equal to Percentage of the ABC)
Cash / certified check / pay order/ manager's check / bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	Five percent (5%)
Bank Guarantee	Five and a half percent (5.5%)

Bid security shall be valid for 120 days.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address and time specified above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all Bids and to accept the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding either the Bids or the pre-qualification of a party may be rejected or withdrawn provided that through no fault of the DOH for any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Assistant Director of Health
CBAC Chairperson

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

October 1, 2010

INVITATION TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 2010-007, 2010-008, 2010-009 & 2010-010

1. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the CY 2008 continuing appropriations and CY 2010 enacted appropriations intends to apply the cost of the following being Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	ABC	DATE OF PURCHASE / PER
2010-007	Procurement of BIR Annual Fiscal Activity Year 2011	P 38,000,000.00	P 38,000.00
2010-008	Rehabilitation of the Revenue Data Center (RDC) Located in Building, Bonini Heritage Street, Quezon City	3,000,000.00	3,000.00
2010-009	Procurement of Software for Windows and Server New Package Type Internetworking Units, SMP Mainframe Computer, Printer, Scanner / Etc.	800,000.00	1,000.00
2010-010	Procurement of Toners and Photoconductor Kits for Laserjet 4345MFP Laser Printer	3,000,000.00	3,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites bids from eligible bidders for the following:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT DURATION (UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)
2010-007	The Procurement of BIR Annual Fiscal Activity Year 2011 consists the following items: 1000 Envelopes, White 8x5 — 8000 Envelopes, 1702 1000 Envelopes, White 6x9 — 8000 Envelopes, 1704 1000 Envelopes, White 9x12 — 8000 Envelopes, 1707-A 1000 Envelopes, White 10x13 — 8000 Envelopes, 1708 1000 Envelopes, White 10x15 — 8000 Envelopes, 1709 1000 Envelopes, 1710 — 8000 Envelopes, 1710 8000 Envelopes, 1711	Within Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2010-008	The Rehabilitation of the Revenue Data Center (RDC) Located in Building, Bonini Heritage St., Quezon City consist the following: • Civil Works • Architectural Works and Repairs • Plumbing, Fresh Water and Waste Works • Painting/Repainting Works • Electrical Mechanical Works • Supply and Entry Works • Repainting/Ceiling Works • Tinsmith Works • Glass and Mirror Works • Aluminum Works • Carpentry Works • Sheeting Works • Fire Protection System Works	Within Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2010-009	The Procurement of Software and Hardware for New Server New Package Type Internetworking Units include the following: Quantity — Item Description 1 unit — Server Computer with Accessories 1 unit — Cooling Mountain 1 unit — Cooling Mountain 1 unit — Cooling Mountain	Within Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2010-010	The Procurement of Toners and Photoconductor Kits for Laserjet 4345MFP Laser Printer consist the following: A. Toner — Quantity: 4 units — Item Description: Toner Cartridge for HP4345MFP Yield: Standard Laser Printer OEM / Compatible: Standard Yield 18,000 pages B. Photoconductor Kit — Quantity: 1 unit — Item Description: Photoconductor Kit for HP 4345MFP Yield: Standard Laser Printer OEM / Printer: Standard Yield 200,000 pages, with printing capacity of 16,000 copies	Within Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)

Bidders should have completed within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting October 4, 2010.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 4, 2010 to October 20, 2010 from the address below and upon paid payment of the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount specified above.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference on October 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the 34th Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 20, 2010. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of Bids in any of the following forms:

	Form of Security	Amount of Security (Equal to Percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) rounded off)
a.	Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Philippine Commercial bank;	Two percent (2%)
b.	Bank Draft/guaranteed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank; however, it shall be confirmed or authorized by a Philippine commercial bank, if issued by a foreign bank;	Five percent (5%)
c.	Surety Bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security;	Five percent (5%)
d.	Any combination of the foregoing;	Proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security

The opening shall be at October 20, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, BIR, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address given. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The Bureau of Internal Revenue shall not be liable to any bidder, and/or prospective bidder, for any reason/s whatsoever in the preparation of his bid.

9. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Bureau of Internal Revenue
BAC Secretariat Building
National Computerization and Development Center
Diliman, Quezon City
c/o Mrs. [illegible], OIC, Procurement Division
Telephone Number: [illegible]
Fax No. 929-7244 Plus Fax No. 929-7245
e-Mail Address: [illegible]

(Sgd.) **JAMES T. TAN, CESO**
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

BUSINESS

BPOs encourage 'homesourcing'

By Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESS PROCESS outsourcing firms, particularly the voice that are homegrown, are urging local firms to "homesource," or to outsource noncore functions to Philippine-based third-party service providers.

In an interview, Manuel Lopez Jr., chair and chief executive of local BPO company Pacific Hill Corp., said Filipino firms could also take advantage of outsourced services, the same way companies abroad were reaping the benefits of outsourcing and offshoring.

"Local businesses are also starting to outsource, but we still want to see that segment grow. There are a lot of opportunities in that space," he said.

He said that at the height of the recession, Pacific Hill lost some American clients and it was the company's domestic business that kept it afloat.

Without mentioning specific figures, he said the company's domestic business had significantly grown over the past three months.

Most of the local firms that had already jumped on the outsourcing bandwagon were in the banking and finance, telecommunications, insurance and retail sectors, he said.

While encouraging local companies to outsource, he also urged the establishment of more homegrown BPO firms.

"We're not just looking at the United States market. There are a lot of opportunities for local companies in the BPO space. We can also tap clients from Australia, the United Kingdom, and even some Asian economies. We just have to do our homework," he said.

"Right now, there are very few truly local firms that are in the BPO business. We want to see more homegrown companies taking advantage of (the BPO boom)," he added.

Companies that would want to enter the BPO space, however, should be ready to shell out considerably significant amount, Lopez Contact Center Association of the Philippines president Benedict Hernandez said.

On the average, telecommunications infrastructure for BPO operations required an investment of around P200 million, he said, plus between P2,000 and P3,000 per seat. "Even those with existing facilities

Airphil adds routes

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LUZON TWO-bird Air Philippines, operator of budget carrier Airphil Express, has launched two new domestic flights as part of the expansion of its network using its newly delivered Airbus A320 jet.

The company said it started flights to Davao and Cebu, which started on Sept. 13. The Davao hub also flies daily from Davao to Cagayan de Oro.

Over the next three years, Airphil Express wants to have 18 leased Airbus A320, which will be the company's main workhorse in the Asia Pacific region. It is spending P250 million until 2017 for the fleet expansion.

The Tan group wants the budget carrier to complement the operations of sister firm Philippine Airlines (PAL), which will focus more on its long-haul transcontinentals.

By next year, PAL plans to resume flights to India and add flights to the United States as soon as the federal government gives it the green light.

"There new routes are the latest in our expansion plans to refocus our operations to our hubs in Cebu, Davao and Zamboanga in order to support local trade demand," Airphil Express vice president for marketing and media Maria Ana said.

She said the company would continue to launch new routes that would address demand for travel from booming cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

Airphil Express is the only airline to serve connecting inter-island flights in Jolo and Tawi-Tawi from its Zamboanga hub.

The airline also serves daily flights to Davao and Cebu, which started on Sept. 13. The Davao hub also flies daily from Davao to Cagayan de Oro.

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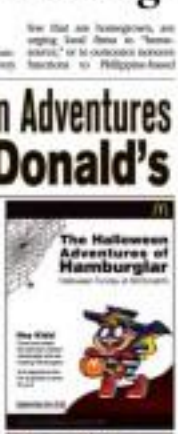
Halloween Adventures at McDonald's

This Halloween, discover and unravel the mystery behind the Hamburglar in the case of missing Hamburgers at the McDonald's Halloween Fun Day.



McDonald's has once again prepared fun activities for kids of ages. For only Php19.000, kids can experience a special Halloween celebration filled with fun games, art projects, great food, prizes, and many other spook-tacular surprises. Kids can choose to their favorite costumes and join Hamburglar and his Hamburger adventures this Halloween at McDonald's.

Not to be left behind, the young and the young-at-heart can also experience a fun-filled Halloween celebration with McDonald's exciting and affordable Halloween Party Packages. For as low as P180.00 per person, there the fun whether at home or in the workplace with your favorite McDonald's meals featuring Hamsley and Ronald Mc McFlurry Parfaits, and enjoy freebies such as loot bags, balloons, party hats and a free use of the Halloween-themed party backdrop and banners.

This Halloween promo will run from September 27 to November 1, 2015. What are you waiting for? Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, the McDonald's Halloween Fun Day and Halloween take-on Party Packages will surely be a treat rather than a trick. Seriously your favorites and celebrate this Halloween with McDonald's.

Google Chrome launched in RP

By Ilea T. Diclomdra

GOOGLE HAS launched its latest browser version, Google Chrome, in the Philippines, with 11 browser extensions and 13 action themes to enrich the Filipino user's experience.

Citing independent data from Internetworldstats, Google Southeast Asia marketing head Derek Cullow said Google Chrome had a fast-growing following in the Philippines, driving the company's interest to develop more local features for the country.

"The Philippines is where Chrome has its greatest market share. Out of all the browser users in the Philippines, 27 percent of them do so using Google Chrome," Cullow said at the launch in Makati City.

Extensions by Cebu Pacific Air and Philippine Airlines, for example, can be used to get real-time information on promo fares and schedules.

Browser extensions are mini-programs that deliver customized content within a browser, making the surfing experience more personalized.

Other localized features include news from ABS-CBNNews.com and GMANetwork.tv; showbiz news from the Philippine Entertainment Portal; traffic information and tips from Metro Manila Development Authority; Manila Development Authority; buying and selling updates via the Ayosdito.ph online marketplace; foreign exchange information via Banco de Oro; adventurous and tour dates from Carlos Celdran; forum discussions at online community Pinoy Exchange; and online help, news, and promo updates from Smart. Globe, also launched a service from www.globe.com.ph.

Google Chrome also showcases special themes in cooperation with comic book writer and artist Arnold Arre, tour guide Carlos Celdran, illustrators AJ Dimaranan, Corey Cruz, Gino Marcelino, Steve Rampino, Karen Gonzalez, and Paul Guadalupe; local illustrators and manga company Flipmedia Inc.; graphic designer Nonoi Miranda; social change group Bahaghari Pinoy; and Amman Bags and the School of Stitches and Like Arts.

Underneath the Pinoy themes of Google Chrome are intuitive features such as the "omnibox," a combined search and address bar at the top of the browser. The omnibox quickly takes users where they want to go, often in just a few keystrokes.

"In more and more Filipinos spend more time online, they need a browser that is extremely fast and powerful but does not get in their way. Just like the classic Google homepage, Google Chrome has a simple user interface with a sophisticated engine to provide a speedy browsing experience," said Andrew Weinberg, head of product management, Google Southeast Asia.

36th Philippine Business Conference and Expo
ONE. GLOBAL. FILIPINO. Creating Synergy for Competitiveness
October 13-15, 2015, Manila Hotel, Philippines

TVI posts $59M in copper sales

TVI RESOURCE Development (Phils.), Inc. has booked $59 million in gross revenue to date, with 36,375 dry metric tons (DMT) of copper concentrates shipped since January 2015, according to the company's Canadian principal.

TVI Pacific Inc. said in a statement posted on its website that its Filipino affiliate shipped 5,200 dmt of copper from the Canatuan mine in Zamboanga del Norte.

The gross revenue reported from the latest shipment, which was completed on Sept. 24, is $8.2 million.

The concentrates came from TVIRD's warehouse facility at Sarisa Diatin Port in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, in accordance with the offtake arrangement between TVIRD and Sarisa company MR Trading Inc., TVI said.

The offtake agreement provides that MR will purchase all of the copper concentrates produced at Canatuan over the anticipated life of the saleable operations.

After the 15% shipment, inventory of about 36.3 dmt is retained in the facility, Diatin warehouse.

Copper production remains steady at Canatuan and concentrate grade levels remained at about 20 percent, TVI said.

"Current production plans call for maintaining production at these concentrate grade levels in preparation for the next shipment scheduled in approximately six weeks," TVI said.

On other projects, TVIRD has completed exploration drilling at the Balintang epithermal gold project over the mine's operating concentrate cutter at Canatuan, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte province. Also TVI's chemical

Republic of the Philippines
Allowance Rural Development Program II
Rehabilitation of Bago Linob-Zilin Lumber/NIS
(P-LOAN-No.8-L-9) Loan No. 7442-PH

Invitation to Bid

October 4, 2015

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Allowance Rural Development Program II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan to payments under the Contract for Rehabilitation of Bago Linob-Zilin Lumber NIS# (P-LOAN-No.8-L-9).

The Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, Mayor Antonio, representing partner of the Department of Agriculture invites eligible bidders to submit their bids under the Contract for Rehabilitation of (2.2KM Section), Bago Linob-Zilin Lumber NIS# Completion of the Works is required by 90 calendar days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, limited to competitive bidders in the following Invitation, all Bids will be opened. The Bidders with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall be subject to post qualification in order to determine its eligibility and compliance to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCB).

Bidders may be foreign or domestic entities. The Estimated Project Cost for the project is Php 1,170,000.00. (Three Million One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos)

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidder upon the presentation of the Invitation to Bid.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon presentation of the receipt for the amount of Php 1,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on or before 3:00 p.m., November 4, 2015.

The Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on 10:00 a.m., October 22, 2015 at the following address: Sto. Tomas, Municipal Hall of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. November 4, 2015. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified manager's or cashier's check, bank guarantee and/or an amount specified in the Instructions to Bidders, in the amount of Php 23,400.00 which shall be valid for 120 days from November 4, 2015 to March 4, 2016. Bid security shall be submitted on or before 10:00 a.m., November 4, 2015 at the Municipal Hall of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who chooses to attend at the address below at 10:00 a.m., November 4, 2015.

The Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, Mayor Antonio reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Engr. ALVIN V. ABELLA, JR.
Barangay Engineer - Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

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RACKS

Romance of the Spanish galleons relived

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE GALLEON trade in which ships laden with goods sailed from Manila to Acapulco, Mexico, began in 1565 and lasted for 250 years.

Through the galleon trade, the Philippines became part of world trade, according to the background paper ("Ola del Galeon") prepared by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA).

"With the galleon trade, the world became a global village and Manila became the most important port in Asia. The trade route bridged Asia to Europe like no other economic feature of the country."

The trade involved 22 commodities, which have now become 32 industries.

The background information was distributed during the recent press conference at the National Museum which announced the month-in commemoration of the Galleon Trade...to Manila (Nov 12, Oct. 5.9) of the replica of the 17th-century galleon ship Andaluzia, which was among the five ships that headed to the Spice Islands and landed to the Philippines.

The event is being attended by a host of current and forthcoming activities. These include an international workshop which began on Sept. 24 at the National Historical Commission and the National Museum; a conference on Lenn Amateur studies; a five-day educational trip (open to the public) on board the Archibishic performances to highlight galleon themes; enthronement of Antipolo's Hamtora before de la Paz y Buenviaje alongside Avellor's (Spain) Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, by Candelaria Cardinal Rosales; and a dialogue and exhibits (Oct. 8), during which the book "Encuentros" by Fr. Pedro Cid

BANNAGA 2-C2

Bencab's Shangri-La

By Jahrachan Libaries
Rondina
Contributor

LUMINOUS VERSANT. Infinge spanula across this naturally crafted garden of bougainvilleas, amberberra and coelyfolias.

Throughout this visual field, small bursts of color from an eclectic assemblage of fruits and dwellers, themselves studies is conspired to orchestrate, punctuate the

BENCAB'S C2

Salcedo Auctions sets world record for Philippine drawing

"PILA SA BIGAS," a 1972 pen-and-ink drawing by National Artist Vicente Manansala, became the most expensive drawing by a Filipino artist to ever sell at auction when it fetched P686,312 (US$15,398 inclusive of buyer's premium and VAT) at the Ilustrado Home + The Modern Document sale conducted by Salcedo Auctions on Sept. 25 at the Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

The price set a new world record, breaking the old record for a Philippine drawing—for a much bigger Manansala drawing—that sold for US$9,234 at Christie's Hong Kong in April 2004.

Four bidders, an absentee bidder, a local collector and a Singaporean battled it out by phone, and an unidentified participant from overseas present at the sale room, vied for the 35.5 x 57.5 cm (13.75 x 22.5 inch) drawing, which depicts one of Manansala's most recognized motifs: vendors and peasant and grouping women wielding in line to purchase rice.

Bidding opened at P500,000, rising steadily over the next 20 minutes.

According to Salcedo Auctions president Raven Rua Leeras, the world record set in Manila marks a turning point in the sale of important Philippine artworks,

"PILA sa Bigas," by Vicente Manansala

with collectors used to depending on auctions held overseas to realize returns at an international level now having an option to sell their prized possessions locally.

She adds: "The interest in our collection is the quality of Philippine art, and the high regard that it is held not just here but overseas. Why unload abroad, when you can sell here? As for overseas collectors, we invite them to visit our website and to make an absentee or telephone bid, or, better yet, to come visit our showroom and attend our auctions in Manila to acquire the finest examples of Philippine art."

The Ilustrado Home + The Modern Document sale, which consisted of furniture, décor and objects of arts in addition to

SALCEDO C2

SMART, SEXY,
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"I've always dreamt of having my very own place in Makati and The Knightsbridge Residences is without a doubt, the smart and sexy choice! With its hip designer interiors and unbeatable location, right in the heart of the country's social and financial center, it's the perfect home for a bachelor on the go like me.

The Knightsbridge Residences brings together all that I love about living in the city, wrapped in breathtaking British-inspired design. For me, it truly is the ultimate Makati address!"

Rivals

MAKATI Located right in the heart of Manila's Makati, The Knightsbridge Residences is the second residential condominium in the exciting Century City, a fully-masterplanned central business district created by award-winning architectural planner Ian Wells. Its main inspiration for such renowned world landmark like the Bridges in Los Angeles, Montreal Expedition in Angeles, and many more.

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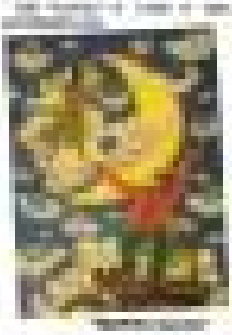
Bencab's Shangri-La

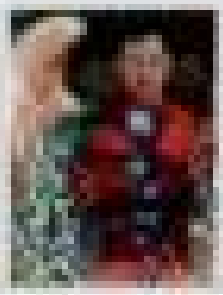
Neil Manalo at Lisopsyem

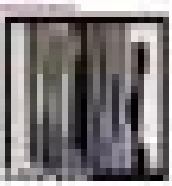
Gallo prints by Lisolo Ortigas in Cagayan de Oro



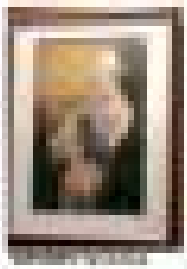
Art maneuvers

Today by the National Artist attributed at Other Story to Jules Shangri-La Place



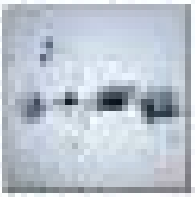


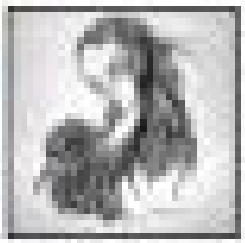
UP alumni artists in 'Women' exhibit



Julie Lluch and Dalena siblings hold joint show

Female artists define the elements





Romance of the Spanish galleons relived

Everything you want in one big event

Centrum

Meet Our Lady's sculptor

By Cid Reyes
Court Buzzer

"SUGANG AA lang magsalita?" (It's practically silent.)

Such is the statement of admiration expressed by sweetstruck viewers, referring to the Silvilla works of Manila art community's best-kept secret, Brad-born sculptor José Barrera.

His latest work is the 7.5 foot sculpture of Our Lady of the Rosary, which will be officially blessed and presented on her feast day Oct. 7. Mass will be officiated by the Bishop of Antipolo, Gabriel Reyes, at 4 p.m. The public is invited.

It took exactly a year when Barrera, on the same day in 2009, started to work on the project initiated by Sr. Mary Epifania Brasil, OP Barrera's monumental masterpiece is situated on a hill surrounded by 10,000 trees within the expanse of Hagonoy Ecumenical Institute for Contemplation in Arts Ortigas (HICA) in Tanay, Agabo, Tanay, Rizal.

Indeed, more than just a sculpture, the statue of the Regina Rosarii involved as well architecture, engineering and landscaping. Within the mantle of Our Lady is an adoration chapel, an inspired idea of Barrera's himself.

Armed with two degrees (Industrial Technology from the Rizal College of Arts and Trades and Fine Arts from Pontifical University), Barrera is ideally equipped to accept sculptural challenges that demand a knowledge and understanding of structure. Previous to fact to the Regina Rosa project, the sculptor installed a 30-ft sculpture of Our Lady of the Rosary on the fifth level of the congregation's mother house in Quezon City (56 Scout Fernandez, Brgy. Laging Handa). It is a revolving sculpture which an individual can, without effort, set into motion, allowing Our Lady to view the city from any vantage point. Intricately wood, the sculpture has survived the onslaughts of wind lashing typhoons. Indeed it survived "Milenyo," which toppled down the Edsa billboards.

Just what stuff are sculptors made of, able to harness seemingly herculean strength with spiritual discipline, to create gargantuan works that physically dwarf even the monumental visions of painters? Barely over five feet tall, of a chesky frame, Barrera is a strapper presence on top of scaffolds and folding, dangerously coaxing disaster from a fall, as has often happened. If not a fall, then a seismically shall-crushing accident when massive Havana trees trim literally by an inch, as did happen, too. A closer share in a regretfully phrase to describe what are in fact "miracles" that have protected Our Lady's sculptor.

SCULPTOR José Barrera and, at left, image of Pope John Paul II

Long line

Barrera is a progeny of a long lineage of practicing sculptors in Naga, where he was born 37 years ago. His great grandfather, Federico Barrera, created the portrait busts of Naga's 10 town Mayors, an official landmark of the city. His grandfather was a carver, creator of religious statuary, upon whose front the child Barrera fervently watched as the chisel, inch by inch, released the image from the block of sacred wood.

At age seven, Barrera was already carving. At age 12, his consolidation strokes deserved a mastery of skill beyond his ages.

Barrera's artistic journey toward being Our Lady's sculptor started in 2004, when Naga Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi commissioned him to create a replica of the famed Lady of Peñafrancia. Home out to preside over annually, the tumultuous reception attended Our Lady always results in her garment being ripped and torn. To solve this problem, an exact replica is fiberglass was created by Barrera.

Recognizing the sculptor's impressive talent, the good archbishop recommended Barrera for the Dominican Order of UST when he needed formal assistance to take up his degree in Fine Arts. To earn his keep, Barrera taught painting to the UST seminarians, till he finally earned his degree. Archbishop Legaspi gave him encouragement as a sculptor of Juan Francis of Assisi.

Thence honors and commissions followed in succession. The Daughters of Charity asked Barrera to do the sculpture of Mother Elizabeth Seton, the first American saint, to whom honor a hospital in Naga City was named.

Among other heroic-heroic sculpture, Barrera won the grand prize in the 1017-upon-national sculpture competition "Cult to Pope John Paul II." What was the edge of Barrera's portrait over the others? Aside from its startling lifelike visage, the sculpture was made of lahar, the volcanic ash scattered by the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo. As a gift from the Filipino people to the Supreme Pontiff, Barrera's loving resin-reinforced material ranged seamlessly and poignantly with the spiritual genius of Filipino artistry.

Acknowledged by the papal Francis Archbishop Marveni, the gift is now in the collection of the Vatican Museums.

Another exemplary commission was for the portrait bust of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, requested by the Archbishop's Palace. Barrera's work is now installed in the crypt of the iconic religious leader at Manila Cathedral.

The history of Saint Paul, too, commissioned a multi-figured sculptures group of their order's founder and pioneer members, now given pride of place in the school grounds at Ugong, Pasig. Not only religious congregations, but state educational institutions, too, have discovered Barrera's talent. As present, Barrera is kept busy with a commission from the University of Manila for a life-size figure of its founder. He has also just finished the sentimental "Gift to Pope John Paul II," "Hand and Rebirth of Siarao Cocoza" (in the city's plaza.

No doubt such blessings come from Our Lady herself, who has her ways of rewarding her loyal and faithful sculptor. Remaining humble, he has not even keeping clippings of his media notices, for but they may instill undue pride in him. José Barrera is content to put his sculptured gifts at the service of Our Lady and her followers.

Marian talk and art exhibit

IN CONJUNCTION with October as the Month of the Holy Rosary, a Marian lecture and art exhibit will be held Oct. 14 at the auditorium of Security Bank Building on Ayala Ave., Makati City.

Father Dennis Pani, SDB, will give a talk on "To Know Her Is To Love Her More. The Truths on the Blessed Virgin Mary" at 2 p.m.

The exhibit will showcase the artworks of Digri Gallegos.

Pani is an acknowledged Marian expert and devotee. He is also the spiritual director of St. Emma de Guzman, the visionary in the apparitions of the Mother of Love, Peace and Joy in the Mountain of Tadyakan, and also of the Philippine La Pieta chapter.

Gallegos is launching her solo show with 40 different images of the Blessed Mother, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, and also various interpretations of the Madonna and Child.

The twin events are in support of Pani's Dido Foundation, a scholarship project for the poor migrant youth of Ibaa Bicol.

Tres Reyes at Greystone

EDWIN TRES Reyes is holding his show of new works, "Graves of Suggestion," on the lobby of restaurant-gallery-cafe-cum-playing the room-way.

His works draws out messages that are subliminal, but linger in our consciousness. Shifting between realistic and abstraction-based rendition, the artist endeavors to extract attention, create interest, generate desire and evoke actions through the ideas he puts forth.

A product of University of Sto. Tomas' College of Fine Arts, Tres Reyes has participated and won in many significant art competitions, such as the 2001 Metrobank and the 1996 Art Association of the Philippines contest.

Power of Suggestion is running at Greystone Gallery, Prime Plaza II, Legaspi St., Greenbelt Park, Makati City. Call 8410377, 7229418.

"DEVESTING"

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Tchaikovsky and Naumburg prizewinner debuts in Manila Oct. 10

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CHINESE CELLIST Qin Li Wei and Singapore-based Filipino pianist Albert Tiu perform in a concert "Deux Conversations," on Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Philamlife Theater. The concert is part of the MCO Foundation's Great Performances Series 2010 in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Tiu is probably the first Filipino First Prize Winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa. He was also prizewinner (bronze) in international piano competitions in Calgary, Barcelona (Ibbolotti), among others.

Still unknown in Manila, Li Wei happens to be the silver medalist in the 13th Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and gold medalist in the Naumburg Competition in New York.

Their Manila program—Messiaen's "Maple Plant's Xlo Medelins elolet reilicher"; Chopin's Sonata in G Minor for Piano and Cello Op. 65 and Rachmaninoff's Sonata in G minor for Piano and Cello Op. 19 should recall the excitement of the Lind-Messaen, Lind-Gothardt partnership in Manila some years ago.

But a solid pianist of the soothing qualities of Li Wei and Tiu as chamber musicians is the

TCHAIKOVSKY ED

2009 Leeds winner performs at PhilamLife

THE ONLY woman to win the Leeds International Piano Competition—Sofya Gulyak—will perform in Manila on Oct. 14 at the Philamlife Auditorium at 8 p.m. The concert is presented by the Hei Hapi Nakama Center, ROI Music Center and Philamlife Insurance Company.

Gulyak was awarded the First Prize and the Princess Mary Gold Medal at the 45th Leeds International Piano Competition in September 2009, becoming the first woman to win it since the competition began in 1961. The Leeds, as the competition is informally called, is acknowledged to be among the world's Top 10 piano competitions, including the Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Rubinstein and American's Van Cliburn.

Every three years, the Leeds is held in the city of Leeds, West Yorkshire, England. It is acclaimed as a prestigious cultural event, celebrating and inspiring pianistic excellence and world-class musicianship.

Gulyak has won numerous prestigious piano competitions such as the William Kapell International Piano Competition in USA ("Joe Peter") May

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'American Hwangap'—charming, funny and fuzzy

Endearingly quirky characters inhabit a world seemingly stripped of cultural identifiers

THE CAST

By Walter Ang
Core Buzz

HANGAP IS a recurring theme in Keenan Ampoloan (Gayl Ibit)'s "American Hwangap," wherein dowd yesterday after a three-month visit at CCP's Tanghalang Huseto Tolentino, staged by Tanghalang Pilipino.

Mai Sisi left his family in Korea for Korea 15 years ago and never has returned for his 60th birthday.

Harold, his oldest son, is in New York City, closer to Texas than Korea, but refuses to join the reunion. Esther, his daughter, is in the same house as he is but can't seem to connect. Ralph, the youngest son, lives in the basement, but pastchless guest for nights, but is plodded along as and finished out in the end due to both scripting and staging.

In Korean culture, hwangap commemorates the completion of one full astrological cycle and is a gradual celebration of maturity. With Sisi Sisi takes this as a free pass to suddenly start living his children's lives as if he'd never left.

The premise of the prodigal father returning after his confession does, but Sisi's conflict—a family that's not into explosions. It's mood, they suppress bitterness, begin self-control and interpose their points with circumspect hesitations of the past. But the best way to animate tension on stage.

Ibit's lines let the characters tell us where they're from. And before we get to know the children enough to empathize with the angst they feel for or against their fathers, Ibit has already cut them off with closing statements.

Their underdeveloped motivation is how Mary, without a trace of resentment, is an embarrassing of Mr. Sisi's concern.

Roundabout sequencing

This results in the distancing emotional or otherwise. One feel like they aren't leading anywhere or are terminating too cleanly. After you leave the theater, you realize the characters actually sensitized where they wanted to go, because of the roundabout sequencing of these declarations and director Chris Millado's desultory pacing. they were easy to miss.

It didn't help that no dangers like failures pastiqued the distance being navigated by the characters. Even the momentous issues that spanned the entire length of the Tanghalang Huseto Tolentino stage.

Yet, it could be construed as a metaphor for how the characters vanished around in an external world as for reaching in their internal problems.

But the scale dissipated the intimate material (mostly scenes between two characters at a time) and ate up the otherwise competent hints of the cast.

Several designer Jolbee Joaquin's cardboard bridge stairs for the black-only Terrazzo seems fell awkwardly long. Japanese audiences had to wait for the artists to cross the stage set back and forth. And Ranch Garcia's chic lighting design further added to the sluggish pacing.

There are questions about the adaptation choices as well. The birthdays of celebrities were used as a conversation point, but why did the production use names familiar to Filipinos only in the Tagalog translation? It is unwise for to be using the voice behind Mermaid Man to "Spongebob Squarepants," would anyone younger than 21 even know who Lyman Dungcayan is? (It is Ibarra Father's birthday).

The Tagalog translation by Joi Barrios-Lokin's was clumsy and hard on the ears. How does the Tagalog vocabulary leaned toward the poetic, which didn't match the conversational tone of the original English. Zhe had the characters slip in and out of English (a lot of Ibit) and Tagalog (which didn't seem natural, resulting in was a convolution), but not in the usual English syntax we use.

In the Tagalog version, Mario O' Hara (Ellen Ibit) spoke with equal ease in Tagalog and English, while Gina Pareño (Mary), was comfortable in Tagalog but wavered in her English. Tseng, meanwhile, referred Batanes's and Ilocanos's Filipino lines.

Language barriers aside, both Ibarra and O'Hara were able to balance out Min Sisi with equal parts arrogance, humor and sensitivity. Leggoi was an amazing and sassy Mary, as sure with her emotions. Pareño, while occasionally falling prey to split-second gaps in the anticipated his cues, held her own against the veteran cast and was hilarious at effortlessly projected comedy in her stage debut.

Exported to Montreal

With "American Hwangap," it's as if Ibit were saying, Asian-American theater is finally ready to take on more generic issues like, say, family dynamics.

It's as if Millado's coming-book-ends and Leblanc's kinesthetic choreo seemed to point out that accents and grammar (and, okay, let's put facial features and skin color in the mix, too) didn't matter in this production, which, for all intents and purposes, was a mix of Korean, American and Filipino lives.

But, in a world seemingly stripped of cultural identifiers—the set design was a good is "American" unfamiliar exterior devoid of human detail, and human gestures seemed inserted as an afterthought, etc.—perhaps the production's whole point was that, now for the concept of hwangap, this family was not as all-encompassed by their Korean cultural baggage?

And that they are, in fact—depending on how you look at it—all-American? Or is that Filipino? Who exactly are they again?

Up next: Tanghalang Pilipino will stage the children's musical "Ang Mahiwagang Alkansiya" by Nicanor Abelardo for Literature Pilipino directors, Mrs. 10-Dec. 12. Call 8321661.

Tchaikovsky and Naumburg...

From page B1

scoring launching of their CD "Tchaikovsky: The Russian for Piano and Cello" at The Podium on Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.

The CD covers Beethoven's five sonatas: D Major sonata, G Minor, C Major, A Major and D Major, Op. 102, No. 2.

In all five sonatas, Li Wei's sense of line is remarkable. The way he shapes phrases all at once tells you he has an uncommon touch or musicianship. His tones do not sell sacrifice to themselves. They get to your senses as satisfying, enhancing part of music making.

This describes his cello partner Bion Li Wei is one of those musicians who has a strong vision of how the music should unfold and develop. It's an absolute joy to work with him."

But what keeps you focused on the cello is the fascinating way the piano part of Tchaikovsky's sonata is built.

On this CD, Tia is at his best as chamber musician and you read up during your calm for underestimating his sterling technique and even more ravishing musicianship.

The Beethoven sonatas are one of the most difficult in the cello and piano repertoire. On this new CD released by ABS Music, you get to recollect and rediscover the world class qualities of cellist Filipino keyboard artists as chamber musicians.

Sealed as the new Yo Yo Ma, Li Wei has recently been appointed artistic director of the Mus Concert Hall in Shanghai and is also head of Cello Studies at Wang New Yuk Conservatory of Music.

TSU

YAN LI WEI

On Oct. 8, Li Wei will also give a cello master class.

For tickets, call at 891.9999; ABS Foundation at 750-8788 or 0920-9328833; or Allan Andres at 331.3915 or 0918-3477857.

For inquiries on the Oct. 9 launching of the Li Wei-Albert Tia Beethoven recording, call 7484111 or 0906.5304270.

2009 Leeds winner...

From page C6

Lind Helsinki International Piano Competition, Dvorik Piano Competition in Copenhagen; Gasteigmen International Piano Competition in South Korea; San Marino Piano Competition; Busoni Piano Competition in Italy (2nd Prize); Marguerite Long Piano Competition in Paris (3rd Prize).

She also served as jury of the international piano competition in Italy, Sweden and Greece.

Gelyah is a native of Kuwait (Pianist), where she studied in a Special Music College, and then in Kuwait State Conservatory under professors Dilbar Ismaelova. She graduated from Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot with the highest distinction.

She later studied in The Piano Academy "Incontri col Maestri" in Imola, Italy with Boris Petrushansky, and in the Royal College of Music with Vanessa Latarche.

Gelyah has performed in numerous concert halls such as Italy Wigmore Hall; Salle Cortot, Salle Gaveau and Salle Pleyel in Paris, Museum Conservatoire, Konzerthaus in Berlin; Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Italia Hotel in Bologna; Finlandia Concert Hall in Helsinki; Lewis Town Hall; Salle Moliere in Lyon; Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles; King Theater in Kuala Kurnal in Iran; and Tivoli Concert Hall in Copenhagen.

She was soloist with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Malle Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic, Moscow Orchestra, Copenhagen Symphony, Orchestre National de France, Baltimore Symphony, Kansas Symphony, Sarasota Symphony, Kansas Chamber Orchestra.

She has participated in many festivals, such as Festival du Sonata, Festival d'Annecy, International Keyboard Festival in New York, Liszt Festival in Villa d'Este, Sondlyn Festival in Norway, Ravello Festival and the Sarasota Music Festival.

She received scholarships from the Rostropovich foundation and the Harriet Cohen Foundation.

For tickets, call BOS Music Center at 843.3221 and 0917.3077362 and the Herrigs Institute Center at 453-7910 and 0919.422.4320.

Crisostomo Ibarra comes to life in new Ballet Philippines production

JOAN Marc Gordon and Caroline Acbay

CRISOSTOMO IBARRA, the protagonist in Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," leaps from the pages of the revolutionary novel and onto the stage in a contemporary dance retelling by Ballet Philippines this month.

Choreography is by Ibid Alexander Hewlett, artistic director of Ballet Philippines. Music is by Jed Balmoris.

The dance narration takes the audience inside the psychological world of Ibarra and helps have this story that underscores the relevance of Rizal's timeless classic.

The ballet production unfolds Juan Marc Gordon as Chrisostomo Ibarra and Caroline Acbay (alternate) as Maria Clara. Sir Weber, Miguel Gabriel and Carissa Adea join the cast.

"Crisostomo Ibarra" is presented in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in celebration of the Philippines as the ASEAN Cultural Capital for 2010-2011.

Performances are at CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) on Oct. 15, 16 (3 and 8 p.m.) and 17 (10 a.m. and 3 p.m.).

Call 8321 3311/8832.1965/8832.1125/8832.1966 or visit www.balletphilippines.org.

PPO plays Beethoven's Emperor Concerto

BEETHOVEN'S "EMPEROR Concerto" will be the highlight of the concert of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra on Oct. 8 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo.

The concert features Beethoven's pianist Jimmy Gonzalez.

The "Emperor Concerto," which is Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E Flat Major Op. 73, is described in The Knopf Guide to Classical Music on CD as one that stands clear of Beethoven's other concertos.

The title of "Emperor" for this work was not Beethoven's idea but that of his friend and publisher John Joseph Cramer. The powerful themes and heroic tone of the work led to the name, according to the All Music Beethoven website.

Georgi Manchev will perform the piano solo for the PPO rendition of the concerto. Manchev has been described as a "truly international pianist, fascinatingly versatile and among the piano elite."

Based in Los Angeles, California, he is an active soloist and chamber musician. He is also a composer of pieces and soundtracks not only in the conventional acoustic medium but also in the electronic music medium.

Under the Harmonia label, he has recorded two CDs, including the 2008 release of "Sonatas and Ballades" featuring the works of Scarlatti, Haydn, Brahms, Liszt and Shostakovich.

He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from University of Southern California where he was an assistant lecturer. He was awarded the "highest distinction of the keyboard department" in his graduation class in 1995.

The Oct. 8 concert of the PPO is its second for the 2010-2011 concert season with PPO music director Olivier Ochanine at the podium.

Two other pieces, Felix Mendelssohn, Jeremy Domingo (Oscar), Lord Barrows (Father) and Mario Miranda (Ralph) were straightforward scenes that showed off their acting chops. Domingo and Barrows expressed frustrations of frustration and hurt. Miranda, although too young looking for his 30-year-old character, had great comic timing.

The English staging worked

PPO

OLIVIER Ochanine

Encores available to students, senior citizens and groups. Call 832.3325 for 1000; the CCP Box Office (832.1125), or Ticketworld at the festival locations (891.9999).

From bestsellers to movies

TWO DIVERSE best-sellers—one, a female writer's memoir of self-discovery; the other, a hero thriller that examines funereal bonds among thieves—find their cinematic adaptations opening at the same week (Oct. 8) in Manila.

They are "Eat Pray Love," based on Elizabeth Gilbert's book of the same title; and "The Town," based on the award winning novel "Prince of Thieves" by Chuck Hogan.

Julia Roberts read Gilbert's memoir when it was first released in 2006. She says it is one of her best friends and they read it at the same time. Both immediately connected with the story.

"Everybody has a journey; a moment in their lives when they need to redefine who they are and what they're looking for," says Roberts. "Life's journey is very specific and very visual, in a way that's very appealing as a story. But it's also a universal story that you apply to anybody."

In the film, Liz (Roberts) is a modern woman on a quest to marvel at and travel the world while rediscovering and reconnecting with her inner self. At a crossroads after a divorce, she takes a year-long sabbatical from her job and confusion to virtually step out of her comfort zone, risking everything to change her life.

In her wistfulness and exotic travels, she experiences the simple pleasure of eating in Italy, the power of prayer in India, and, finally and unexpectedly, the inner peace and balance of love in Bali.

Gilbert's memoir—a self-described search for everything—has achieved extraordinary success, selling over 6.2-million copies in the United States. It has been translated into 40 languages. It is the book that attracted Roberts to the film project, along with the chance to work with Ryan Murphy, the Midas touch writer/director.

"I love the way the book talks about life experience, marveling for answers, and how meaningful people can be in our lives. I think that's really such a vibrant story. It's great to be part of it, with Ryan at the helm—it has a delicious exuberance," says the actress.

"The beauty of the book—and, I think, the reason we all wanted to do it—is that it says, 'Get out of your box,'" says Murphy best known for his Golden Globe-winning series "Nip/Tuck" and "Glee."

'The Town'

Published in 2004, "Prince of Thieves" won the Hammett Prize from the International Association of Crime Writers, and caught the attention of producer Graham King ("The Departed").

"The whole flavour of the book, with its criminals and cops, was right up my alley," says King, "But I also loved the undercurrents of the story—the friendship of these guys hanging out and working together, regardless of their occupations. Then Ben Affleck, Doug, fells for this woman they had taken hostage and runs into her. And decisions to make that will impact all of them. It's an interesting mix."

Hailing from Massachusetts, author Hogan situated the crime drama in Charlestown for a reason: the Boston neighborhood has produced more bank and armored car robbers than any other single square mile in the world. The seeds of that distinction were more than likely planted when Charlestown was the site of a mandatory reform school, leading to a self-perpetuating criminal evolution.

However, co-screenwriter and co-star Ben Affleck says: "It arrived as a kind of dovetailing done. People would go to prison and their families would move there, and, as they got out and then were back in, a community developed around it. It was hypothesized in the book—and we included it in the film—that robbing banks became a trade that was passed down from father to son."

Producer Basil Iwanyk explains, "The story has so many layers. It has the relationship between these siblings, Rebecca Hall's Charlestown, who are inherently doing the wrong thing, yet you care about them. The men had a swagger and an energy that I was drawn to, but there was also an unlikely romance that immediately pulled me in."

Co-screenwriter Peter Craig says that in adapting Hogan's novel they drew more on the friendships of "The Town" rank precedence for him.

"Every single relationship is complex. There is a love story at its core, but Doug also has representatives to his friend, Jem, to his father, to Jem's sister, and in the last of the crew, that are all just as integral to the story. The goal in adapting the book was to maximize the history and the depth of those relationships."

"Eat Pray Love" and "The Town" open this week in cinemas.

JULIA Roberts in "Eat Pray Love," based on Elizabeth Gilbert's novel

New Mitch Albom book

"WILL YOU do my eulogy?" author Mitch Albom thought he was being asked a question but he was actually being given one.

In "Have a Little Faith," Albom explores faith through an eight-year journey with one man who have different beliefs and live in different communities.

Albom, author of "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "Five People You Meet in Heaven," delivers a heart-wrenching account of finding faith in relationships and searching for answers to life's greatest mysteries and questions.

At the year-old rabbi from Albom's hometown has an unusual request—for Albom to deliver his eulogy. In his mission to get to know the man better, he encounters a reformed drug dealer and convict who's serving as a pastor in a decaying Detroit church.

Albom compares the worlds of the two men, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, rich and poor, and observes how they struggle with their faiths and their lives. Despite the obvious differences, Albom begins to realize the striking similarities between the two men's lives and between beliefs everywhere.

The book is available in all National Book Store branches for P395. Follow National Book Store on Facebook and Twitter.

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Ali Mall Contest to Bring Art to the People

Art, literature meld in Maningning Miclat Awards

By Alma Cruz Mislat
Contributor

A BEAUTIFUL melding of art and literature happened on the night of Sept. 29, at Shangri-La Plaza.

National Artists Virgilio Almario and Francisco Sionil Jose graced the occasion and celebrated the most unusual, moving entries to this year's Maningning painting competition for artists aged 26 and below.

The awarding also launched Mario I. Miclat's novel "Secrets of the Eighteen Mansions" (Anvil Publishing, Inc.).

The event was sponsored by Edsa Shangri-La Plaza with Art Circle Gallery. The novel, "an extraordinary story of underground Filipino expatriates in China during the turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution," is a semi-finalist in the 2009 Man Asian Literary Prize.

The Grand Prize for painting was won by Lance Ricky Tuason of Post Elementary. His oil-on-canvas, "Secrets of Silence," garnered a Julie Lluch sculpture trophy; P30,000 in cash; and a copy of the special limited hard-bound edition of Miclat's first novel.

First runner-up was UP Diliman's Archie Luigi Ocina, 21, with his acrylic-on-canvas "Tatay sa Mukha: Pagdidilang-Anghel ng Bangkong Papel sa Ito, Mayroon na ang Mga Pangarap Ko."

Second runner-up was Rafael Lu Madrid, 22, from UST, with his mixed-media entry "An Empty Orchestra."

Honorable mentions were Erland Jo-effrey Sawala, 25, from UP Los Baños; Rodolfo Torres Jr., 24, NEU; Marlon Solano, 19, Nue; Joel E. Chaves, 19, PUP; and Lemuel Cabellisa, 21, Nue).

All winners got cash prizes, certificates and a hardbound copy each of Miclat's novel.

The board of judges was composed of outstanding painters Manny Echiverri, Sunny Dalena and Fred Saycon.

Maningning Miclat Art Foundation (MMAF) vice president Edna Zapanta Manlapaz recalled how she first met Maningning. "Iris wisp of a young girl who timidly asked, in a soft voice, whether the new Library of Women's Writings, Aklatrix, collected the works of young artists."

As the electronic diorama of Aklatrix does, she sees Maningning's collection of her works, literary and visual, grow under their safekeeping. In other illuminating panels on, a foundation instead after her was formed with the explicit mission of nurturing artists in young to an even younger than her to offer encouragement and counsel to artists below 28, her age at her passing.

Anvil publisher Karina Bolasco launched Mario I. Miclat's book, saying: "After a quarter of a century, Mario has finally written the story [of the PH. guns exiles in China] in a novel, literature and counsel to artists below 28, her age at her passing.

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Legal Issues

The novel's seamless interweaving of the characters' lives with contemporary Philippine and Chinese histories brings to life the so-called Four Quarter Storm of student activism and the formation of the New People's Army in the Philippines, and China's Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In response, Miclat, dean of the University of the Philippines Asian Center, said that his novel "is a story of our generation, a story of a nation, a story of individual Filipinos."

Miclat stayed in China for 15 years and worked together with wife Alma as foreign expert at Beijing Peking under the Chinese Ministry of Culture. They have two daughters both born in Beijing: Maningning and Ramona.

The bilingual poet and artist Maningning passed away on Sept. 29, 2008. Her life and art is being celebrated every year in remembrance of her through art competitions and essay and interviews year through poetry competitions.

Actress, singer, performance artist and professor Ramon performed classical Filipino songs in the program covered by Edna Bonilla Mos.

Also Lluch Dalena, Lito poets, as well as Betty Pagulo-Uy and Opalino Fua Jimino gave performances that brought memories of an artist's life well lived.

The well-bound copy of the Secrets of the Eighteen Mansions is now available at all National Bookstore outlets and Powerbooks.

The contributor is senior vice president of Jane Center Design Corp. and executive director of MMAF. Send her message at 0918.9037702 for the hardbound edition of "Secrets of the Eighteen Mansions" that still bought $$$$$.

Cagayan de Oro writers form group

THE CAGAYAN de Oro Writers Bloc was recently established as a community of multi-genre writers based in Cagayan de Oro City. It includes playwrights and writers in film, Visayan and English poetry, historical fiction, short story and art.

The birth of the Bloc was facilitated by nationally acclaimed poet and literary awardee Ricky de Ungria, a pillar of the UP Diliman Sabal-darap and former chancellor of UP Mindanao. De Ungria is also dean of the NCCA Sub-Commission on Arts. He is advisor of the Bloc.

The Cagayan de Oro Writers Bloc aims to achieve excellence and feature chancellor of UP Mindanao. De Ungria is also dean of the NCCA Sub-Commission on Arts. He is advisor of the Bloc.

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POET Ricky de Ungria (3rd from left) presides over the maiden meeting of the Cagayan de Oro Writers Bloc at Capitol University Press

The organization of the Bloc was hosted by Capitol University Press, which aims to engender the writing of Mindanao subculturally.

Elected officers were Iris Gonzalez Wenceslao of CU Press as president (fellow of Iligan Writers Workshop in the field of English poetry); Ariel Molino (Visayan poet) as vice president; Jayson Edwin Pedro of Capitol University (fellow of Iligan and Davao Writers Workshop in the field of short story) as secretary; Kelly Rainne Nicgarao (art writing) as PRO; and Estibella Inte of Capitol University Dimensional Review) as treasurer.

Nine writers comprise the initial roolset of the Bloc.

Travel book's proceeds to help OFW families

ARLENE Legaspi's "The World Gypsy: A Map to Heaven" is a book of travel anecdotes.

"It is about the lives of a gypsy from Manila, her reasons for leaving and coming back to the city," said Legaspi. "The book is a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of our OFWs."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Kanlungan Center Foundation, an NGO dealing with OFW issues. They will also go to assist an OFW family with breast cancer.

The book is available at Chocolate Kiss Café in SM Megamall.

THE MORE WE KNOW,
THE MORE WE KNOW
WE DON'T KNOW.

live curious

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

ISAKI Lacuesta

SINAG'09 scriptwriter Luis Mejia and boss Al Lukso of Institute Cervantes

INSTITUTO Cervantes director José Rodríguez

AMBASSADOR of Spain Luis Arias

Renowned Spanish filmmakers in town for Película

LEADING CRITICAL recognizes worldwide, Spain's film industry has been on a serious roll in recent years, producing titles such as Pedro Almodóvar's "Hable con ella" (Talk to Her, 2002), Enrique Urbizu's "La vida mancha" (2003), Alejandro Amenábar's "Mar adentro" (The Sea Inside, 2004), and Jaime Rosales' "La soledad" (2007), among others.

In celebration of Película, the 9th Spanish Film Festival, Instituto Cervantes de Manila presents Encuentros en el cine, where two renowned Spanish directors make the Philippine premier of their works at Greenhills 3 Cinemas to Makati City.

Spanish filmmaker Isaki Lacuesta presented his film "Los condenados" (The Condemned) and "La leyenda del tiempo" (The Legend of Time) on Oct. 1.

Meanwhile, Spanish director and scriptwriter Miguel Albaladejo will grace the screening of his films, "Resina," "Hombres para subir" (Born to Surfer) and "El cielo abierto" (Ten Days without Love) on Oct 7.

On Oct. 10, Albaladejo will also be presenting his film "Mancillo Cultivo," for a special children's session.

One of the up-and-coming filmmakers in Spain and Latin America, Lacuesta combines his work as university professor with his job as film director both as documentaries and fiction. Lacuesta also writes music, literature and cinema criticism for different newspapers and the media.

Albaladejo, on the other hand, studied sciences of the image at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and started working as production and direction assistant for several well-known directors before making his own movies.

Encuentros en el cine is part of the Película Film Festival, which celebrates and showcases the latest works by Spanish and Latin American filmmakers, as well as films that explore themes and issues prevalent to the Hispanic community.

This year, Película features another brilliant lineup of 23 exceptional and the most awarded films which will last until Oct. 10, when the festival premiere Jim Libiran's slice, "Happy Land."

Said to be the first Filipino football movie, the film follows the story of a Spanish missionary priest who starts an unthinkable project in one of Manila's most impoverished districts—a football team.

Película, the Spanish and Latin American Film Festival, is now in its seventh long edition. Ilona Ximena in Pinoy, the Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts. Película is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila, in cooperation with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, Spanish Agency International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Spanish Program for Cultural Cooperation, Ministerio de Cultura of Spain, Greenbelt and Ayala Malls Cinemas, New World Hotel, Qatar Airways, Jaguar and Mahogany.

Cooperators are: Alba, Boston Teatro, Expo-Fil, Barcelo Café, Café de las Letras, Mexican Embassy, Chilean Embassy, Argentinian Embassy, Pen Manila, Fujifilm YIL Ltda, Happy Land, Ong Corazonera of Makati, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Cadena Española, Shadowcaves, EQ Pilot Laboratories and Reddi Philippines.

For more information on the festival program, call 5064482; visit http://manila.cervantes.es or http://peliculafilipinas.com; Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 853 T.M Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila.

SCRIPTWRITER Miguel Albaladejo

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL JUNIOX

DICK TRACY

LOVE NOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHECHELO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAVLOVSKI

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

FULCRUM — BY MARK COLL

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

RIKO PACHINE — BY RYAN KIBERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

TAU BORN TODAY You're an independent thinker. You're highly intelligent and original. Generally, you are a loner. You avoid things, whether they are feelings, organizations or families. You want to split. You are modern and always ahead of the times. Celebrities born on this day are Kevin Costner, Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Power struggles are ahead with co-workers and highly likely today. Do not try to win friends. Do not be a wimp. Be assertive. Do not forget your family obligations!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Avoid power struggles with children today. Be patient and remember that you are the adult. Similarly, highly sensitive romantic partners can break out easily today. Keep your cool!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is a challenging day for romantic situations and family life. Arguments might break out. Difficulties at home could lead to irritable situations. Be tolerant and patient with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is a classic day for family talks, romances and business ideas, especially between relatives and relations. It's just a battle of wits. Don't even go there.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're obsessed about financial matters today. It could be related to your earnings, or it could be related to your spending habits. Watch out!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Try to refrain from forming your opinions on others today. You have a very strong opinion about everything today. Be careful. Don't be so sure or obsessed about everything today. Stay away! Run away!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get today's driving interest among household members. You'll definitely come up with some answers. They won't stop until you do!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your career decisions are subject to misunderstanding today. People will challenge the authority in the group. You'll regret it if you get caught in the middle of this!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a poor day to take things into perspective. People are fighting simply because they can't help it. Or because they want to. Demonstrate patience and tolerance!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Avoid controversial subjects and dangerous psychedelics, alligators and metal boxes. Pick one and ... just be polite.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Avoid spiritually naive friend projects, interviewers, team and water bottles. This is one of those days you have to battle these subjects. Instead, just chill out.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) It's practically impossible to avoid media comments or arguments with partners and close friends today. Are insurance or investments? Discuss as patient and avoid all this.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Test and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	2	1	7	8	5	3	4
1	5	8	3	4	9	6	7	2
4	3	7	6	2	5	8	1	9
8	9	5	4	6	1	2	4	7
2	7	1	8	5	4	3	9	6
6	4	3	9	1	7	4	2	5
3	1	6	5	9	2	7	8	1
7	8	4	2	3	6	1	5	3
5	2	9	7	8	3	9	6	8

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

4			5	3	9			1
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	9	2				4	5	
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Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Hairy ape, e.g.
5 Feminine title
9 Reason decrease
13 Fabled sea
14 Hand shield
15 Reunion
16 Mother, subject of
18 Forbidden words
19 Ms. Ferrigno
20 Women's magazine
22 Mid-month date
23 Ms. Gabor
24 Curing clay
25 Unwilling
27 Cuban sandwiches
29 Frighten
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DOWN

1 Burgundy duddy
2 Blanche Dubois
3 Tricks in Paris
4 Pay a celebrity visitor
5 Old Greek commentators
6 Ms. Gabor
7 Perceived opinion
8 Known material
9 Ms. Gabor's divorce
10 Ms. Gabor
11 Rubber stamps in the accounting department
12 Ms. Gabor's daughter
13 Antarctic rainforest
14 Ms. Gabor
15 Ms. Gabor
16 Types of school days
17 Ms. Gabor
18 Ms. Gabor
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20 Ms. Gabor
21 Ms. Gabor
22 Ms. Gabor
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'NACIDAS PARA SUFRIR' (2010)

Unique comedy of manners

By Jafet Isnardi E. Teodoro
Contributor

THE PROBLEM with the film "Nacidas Para Sufrir," written and directed by Miguel Albaladejo, with the international title "Born to Suffer," is that it has a lesbian wedding but then there is really no homosexual relationship between the two wedded protein. There are no gay characters, the supposed gay theme is if this film is gay at all. The operational definition of the word here is the old one—meaning, happy. I say happy because this film is an excellent rendition of the quiet modern comedy of manners.

In fact films into "four" this film? Will it prove them to be proper? Maybe if we consider the two meanings of the word queer—the new sense of the word which is gay or homosexual, and the old sense of the word which is strange or eccentric.

The film starts with "Paca" (Paca Martinez), a 73-year-old spinster who spends her life taking care of her three nieces and an aunt. The film opens during the wake of her aunt. From is also at the wake the three nieces, Paca's sister-in-law and Paca's son Pedro (Adrian Grunick), her young homosexual who is very kind and industrious. Pedro is almost a simultaneous and nervous wreck. He is a well-meaning "homosexual" in the sense he is very much like the daughter she never had.

At Pedro goes to see a lawyer about the adoption. She withdraws all her cruelty belongings to Pedro's house, and Pedro carries her to all the films and, in the event that she will be cremated, Pedro will decide for everything. Her nieces and Pedro's family will set or attend meddle. And Pedro answers many anyone. She wants this to be just him-wedding. The lawyer says this sounds like a contempt of slavery. Then the lawyer advises Flora to marry Pedro instead. And so they get married.

Same-sex marriage

Same-sex marriage in Spain was made legal in July 2005. This was made possible under the liberal government under President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. Of course this was not an easy thing to pull off. The Roman Catholic church opposed the measure.

At point, who is a family friend, tells Flora in confidence her what she will do is shrewd and a mortal sin. Flora turns this is just a "marriage of convenience." Adoption is a lot more expensive than marriage. But the priest says a marriage of convenience is not enough. Homosexual relations is a homosexual marriage! Flora decides not to explain herself anymore and coldly asks the priest to leave her house.

The statement of the film about homosexual wedding and the stupid of the Catholic church about it is very clear.

Flora's excuse are also against that marriage except for the young son, Mario (reference to Flora that she likes her because she follows her own mind with courage and that she is a man now because she is emulating Flora's another to more other people. Here is a young, happy and dynamic woman serving God but not judgmental of Flora's plan.

Flora and Pedro push through with their wedding. They confide to their life as two women living together. Of course there is no sex because they are not lesbians—their relationship is more of a mother and daughter. Then comes Patricia family. Pedro has to take care of her mother (Maria Alfonsa Rosach). Pilar, Patricia another lives with them, the problem starts. Until the mother discovers the homosexual wedding. Pedro and her mother go home. Pedro, as forced by her mother, flies for dinner and asks for alimony. All the property of Rosa is taken by Pedro and Rosa goes to the home for the aged.

Divorce machine

Then the divorce machine. Private and her mother never on and don't what they are dating home, Pedro's mother dies. Pedro goes to Peru and asks for forgiveness and promises to remain everything to them. How to do that? Pedro invites Rosa to marry her again. The movie ends on that happy note. Flora, who begins to think that she is living a sham life, is overjoyed at being reformed in a happy ending. That is why I call this film "chosen film that is not gay."

Ellis Hanson, in his introduction to the revised anthology "Out Takes: Essays on Queer Theory and Film" says that a queer theory that anything to offer the identity politics of representation or the descriptive style of cultural studies. It is the rigorous questioning of the very concepts of sexualities, identity, cross-dressing, visibility and authenticity—not to render definition or political action impossible but rather to read, defy our pleasures and our possibilities and to interrogate more radically the critical presuppositions we claim as our own."

Marriage of convenience

"Nacidas Para Sufrir" (Sad Sequences) is indeed about marriage, and a homosexual marriage at that. A marriage of convenience has been there ever since. Here in the Philippines, how many times do we witness (at least by watching it on television) real wedding if from the papers) weddings of people from a political clan or business families? And many of these weddings are at Manila Cathedral or San Agustin church in Intramuros and presided over by no less than bishops. We are not naive to think that these "real" things are only because of love and forget about the odious political and business alliances.

Whether we are for homosexual wedding or not, or we are for marriage of convenience or not, or whether we believe in marriage at all, is not important here. The film is about Paca's life and how she lives her life. It is an offering of a (wanton) experience for us all. We know deep in our hearts that what she did is "correct" as far as her life is concerned. Paca is human and we are also human that is why we suffer and celebrate with her. Her life may be complicated but not life, too, is complicated. Here is an exceptional story told in the beautiful medium of film. My hunch is this will written and well-directed film. The cinematography by Glen de la Rosa is also a real feast.

Jafet Isnardi E. Teodoro is an award-winning writer from Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Antigua, and is a member of Asia Literature Collective. He teaches at Silliman University.

'GARBO' (2009)

Intriguing worlds of spying and cinema

By Shirley O. Lee
Contributor

"(GARBO) El espía. El hombre que salvó el mundo" (Spain, 2009) is a documentary film about a World War II spy and his undercover work. Directed and produced by Edmon Roch, the film won the Gaudí Award and the Goya Award for Best Documentary and the Best Investigative Documentary Award at the Sevilla Festival de Cine Europeo of "Mundial" (Turf). The materials are mostly based on the book by historian and intelligence expert Nigel West, who serves as one of the interviewers.

According to the film, Garbo's main contributor to British intelligence was his crucial role in the deception played on Germany: the misinformation about the actual landing sites of the Allied Forces in June 1944...the historic first-ever invasion that would signal the beginning of the end of Nazi domination.

"Garbo" was later revealed to be Juan Pujol García, of Catalán descent. Ironically, after the war he was perhaps the only agent to be awarded by both the British and Germans for his "invaluable" services to their side.

Personal history

Even more than a personal history, this documentary dwells on the intriguing world of clandestine operations, providing a bird's-eye-view of the workings of such intelligence work in a time of war. Garbo's mesmerizing network of 27 sub-spy-ids in Europe, which he fabricated to gain the Führer's trust, is a startling revelation of how a successful espionage depends not on one's ability to steal data from the enemy, but on a clever construction of rules and falsehood, seasoned with a good deal of imagination. The master spy is a Machiavellian who misleads, delays and gets away with things. The film, in its closing epigram, aptly quotes the British statesman and historian Winston Churchill, "In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies."

Stories about spies and their operations are not new. In the 1960s, Hollywood made more to spy out the land of Cuban's while Joshua has scouts surveying the city of Jericho. In Homer's epic, Odysseus sneaks into the Trojan camps at night. The spy story has a popular genre in itself, with countless novels about secret agents, traitorous conspiracies and espionage, such works of writers like John Buchan, Graham Greene, Ian Fleming, John Le Carré and Robert Ludlum, to name a few, whose novels have been adapted into films.

Films about spies thus seem to merely confirm their use of historical material, able to implant a grain of truth in the bedrock of fiction.

Art of concealment

"Garbo" attempts to do more, or rather, to do other wise. As a documentary, it assumes an air of harmless and laughable reality. However, in an integral part of its narrative structure, film footages are inserted of Hollywood spy movies from spy thrillers such as "Our Man in Havana," "Mr. Moto's Last Warning," "Emperor's Secret," "The Secret Code" and "Mata Hari," among others.

Their juxtapositions with the documentary footages of Garbo suggest a sensational fiction: a parallelism between reality and espionage like film, spying ushers on fictionalizing. Pujol was hailed as a consummate actor, skilled in make-believe and impersonation. His defiance in constructing "realities"—even his own "death"—is his most effective weapon, diverting not just the Germans but also the rest of the world.

By the end of the documentary, we harbor an impression that Juan Pujol's life as Garbo seems to be an glamorous as the beautiful star who bears the name. Cinema has more often than not consumed espionage as a realm of excitement and adventure, discounting the hazards and consequences of the trade. Or perhaps, danger is made so much the better to heighten suspense, or psychic-selling. Missing in action are the agent's psychological tension, the annihilation of homes and communities, the desperation of children and the brutal necessity of ruses. Like spying, film is brilliant in its art of concealment.

As the end of the documentary, we emerge, reeling from its upbeat ersatz, which suspiciously sounds like the call of a mocking bird, and wondering if we could...if we should...believe in film.

Shirley O. Lee teaches literature at De La Salle University in Manila.

'Tres Días con la Familia': The heart's torment

By Alice Sun-Cua
Contributor

THE STORY is told from the point of view of Lola (Nausicaa Bonnín), a young university student from Girona, Catalan, Spain, who fled to Toulouse, France, to study. She had to come home when her paternal grandfather, the patriarch of the Bubé i Canbó clan, passes away. The three days in the title refer to the three days of her family together with her family for the wake, the Mass and the burial. Her family seems like a happy, close-knit group. Alas, underneath the uncomplicated, quiet relationships are envy and disdain, misunderstandings and flashes, contempt, disgust and even hatred.

Lola's parents, Josep Maria (Lluís Homdedeu) and Joelle (Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu) are separated and cannot stand each other but continue to live in the same house. Witnesses for the family Lola herself is silently pining for Sebastian, her boyfriend whom she left in Toulouse. Throughout the movie, Lola is seen calling him persistently by phone, and like a recurring motif, there are constantly uncomfortable silences or flashes, contempt, disgust and even hatred.

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REVEALING moments drama

Also in the mix is Josep Maria's mistress, Rosa (Nausicaa Bonnín), a young university student from Girona, Catalan, Spain, who fled to Toulouse, France, to study. She had to come home when her paternal grandfather, the patriarch of the Bubé i Canbó clan, passes away. The three days in the title refer to the three days of her family together with her family for the wake, the Mass and the burial. Her family seems like a happy, close-knit group. Alas, underneath the uncomplicated, quiet relationships are envy and disdain, misunderstandings and flashes, contempt, disgust and even hatred.

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Katherine Heigl: 'I don't believe my own press'

NEW YORK — Former "Grey's Anatomy" star Katherine Heigl says she's happy to make headlines, but stories about her in the media are often exaggerated. Heigl's comments in the past have been known to make waves in the entertainment world. She called the 2007 comedy "Knocked Up," to which she starred, "a little sexist." Later, she refused to watch an Emmy nomination after saying "Grey's" writers didn't give her enough award-worthy material. AP

INSIDE

■ Cabangon, Gloc-9 Awit's best /2

■ Ogie gets busy as OPM prexy
Take Five /G1

■ John Mayer show worth the wait
Review /G1

■ A new Dawn rises
Stars for Others /G4

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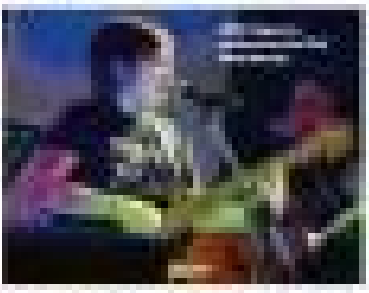

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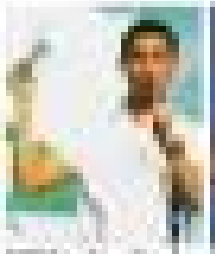
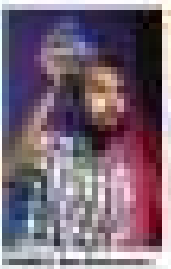
'Vampire Diaries': Books, beasts and bloodlust





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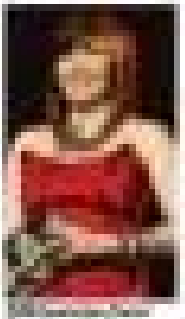

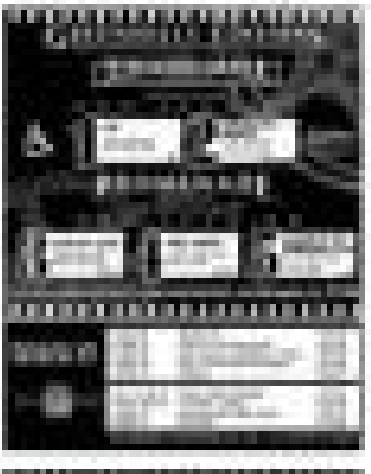

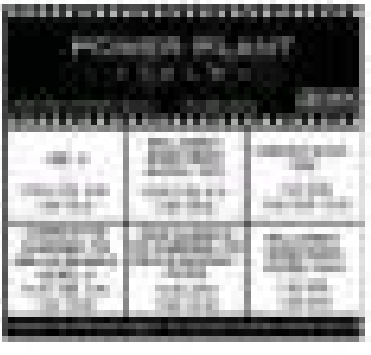

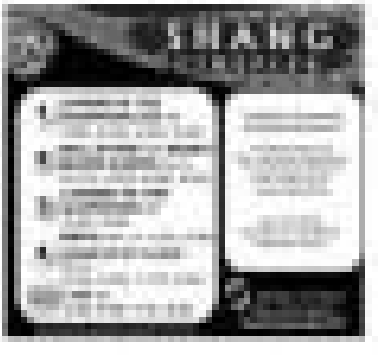

PEDRO PASCUAL (3 magazine cover, Oct. issue [sexy] on keeping fit: "Now, going to the gym is made better and really enjoyable, because it has become part of my lifestyle."

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8 EYE CANDIES

9 PETER & VANGIE BREAKTHROUGH BAND

10 BLS BAND

11 BOMITO & LASSY NIGHTLIFE ACT

12 BOHOL PHILIPPINE DANCE TROUPE MANILA BRASS QUINTET

13 ARIELLE ARASANG KOMPOZED BAND

14 MINSTRELS MAGIC LADY WEE DUO

15 GUEST BAND EYE CANDIES

16 BREAKTHROUGH BAND

17 PETER & VANGIE BLS BAND

18 MAYORS ALLAN K

19 BOHOL PHILIPPINE DANCE TROUPE MANILA BRASS QUINTET

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23 PETER & VANGIE BREAKTHROUGH BAND

24 88.8 BAND

25 BOMITO & LASSY NIGHTLIFE ACT

26 BOHOL PHILIPPINE DANCE TROUPE MANILA BRASS QUINTET

27 ARIELLE ARASANG KOMPOZED BAND

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Worth the wait

By Amy Minero
Guestbuster

He is primarily a bluesman–and a darn good one

AT 8 PM, on a rainy Friday night, a restless crowd at the Mall of Asia open grounds stupefied and soaring for John Mayer.

It was a concert that finally got underway after getting postponed in May, a long delay which the music-loving, very-wincing singer-songwriter himself alluded to in his onstage patter: "Earnestly? You guys are amazing. You waited five months—and

Ogie gets busy as OPM president

By Marinel R. Cruz and the Inquirer Entertainment staff

THERE'S still a lot of work to be done for the music industry," said singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid, who is the newly appointed president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM), a group which aims to promote Filipino music here and abroad.

To help Ogie with his task is a team of dedicated musicians—Mitch Valdes, chair of the board; Gary Valenciano, vice president for external affairs; Noel Cabangon, VP for internal affairs; Christian Bautista, VP for special projects; Jose Mari Chan, treasurer; and Hingbang Arumondo, corporate secretary.

"If I won't do it, who else would? I enjoy it more than work. Ika pa rin 'yong may adrenaline ka. It keeps me going," the award-winning artist said.

Do you think there should be a unionization or a contract for singers?

There's no unionization here. I like watching them. Their arrival is also a good kind of exposure for the country. They could very well be our tourism ambassadors. I just think their promoters should be asked to pay a higher equity. A memorandum of agreement signed by the OPM, the Bureau of Immigration and the Asosyasyon ng Musikong Pilipino (Samahan), requires a promoter to pay an equity of P5,000. This is regardless of whether a concert artist is local or foreign. This has been in effect since 2007, but we're still collecting. Ok, but perhaps this has to be changed.

What's your take on sex broadcast?

Tickets to the concert of Adam Lambert, for example, would probably cost P6,000 as P10,000. I've never heard of local performers charging as much, and yet our promoters still have no issues P5K as P10 million. This does not even cover the cost of promotions. Bakit ka pa aangal? This has to change. We can now use this law as incentive-generating industry by reducing its from 20 percent to 10 percent, just like what's been done in the movie industry.

How far are we from this scenario?

We're still very far from it. Quezon City rates as at 15 percent, but the other cities like Pasay, Mandaluyong, Manila all get 20 percent. Maybe we can meet with local government unit heads and discuss this problem with them.

'There has to be genuine interest in Pinoy music'

The United States has gotten around the issue of piracy. How can we address ...

The Anti-Piracy Bill, which is gathering, is to impose because we've studied a point when our music gets uploaded and downloaded on the Net. Illegal downloading goes unpunished. In the US, they sell music through iTunes. Hip Tunes is the local way, then. There has to be laws that will protect artists. I recently attended a seminar, where I learned that a lot of people are willing to help.

Do you think the problem almost issues can still be solved?

It will take a long while — it will all depend on the political will of the people in government. I'd like to encourage everyone to look broader, to look into the future, a lot of our artists are known abroad — Charice (Pempengco), Arnel (Pineda), Christian Bautista and Nyoy Bautista. They're doing so well but they come home to a country that likes to listen to foreign singers and Justin Bieber. There must be something wrong with that. Local artists are unappreciated. There has to be genuine interest in Pinoy music again.

Why do you think Pinoys become uninterested?

There are many reasons, but I think one lagging economy is the main culprit. I came from a time when artists release singles every month. Now, only the mainstream class pirates/buys CDs, which cost from P250 to P350. Other people would rather buy cell phone loads instead of CDs. I'm thinking, maybe downloading is our future. I also want to make friends with DeDa again. It has changed — it has become talk radio. But there is still a number that wants to listen to music. There are still people who tune the radio on to feel relaxed and be entertained.

There was a resurgence of local bands five years ago. What happened to it?

The same thing — bad economy made people focus on something else. Times have become harder. I recently asked a group of jazz artists to join the OPM. They gave me this look as if they're saying, 'What can OPM do for us?' Are you going to help us get more gigs?' A lot of bands are in limbo. They go from one gig to another not knowing

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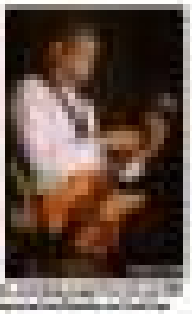
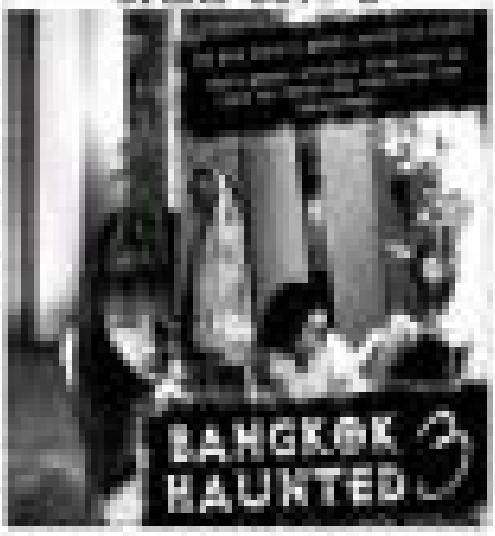
Worth the wait



Ogie gets busy as OPM president

Annie Brazil's birthday jinx



A new Dawn rises, faces new challenges

On top of her stage comeback, multi-tasking mom busies herself with pet causes

By Rayani Sol Obaga Jr.

ACTRESS Dawn Zulueta is brimming with anticipation these days, frantically coordinating with recitalmates.

After doing the Cinemalaya film "Signal," the gutsy actress herself once again with her stage roots—back, minus Peaches Gurl singing of "Broken Hearts Club" & "A Little Night Music," which is scheduled at The Circle C Ramon Aseberon of the ROC Plaza in Makati from Oct. 31 to 21 and at the Esplanade Theater in Singapore next month. She had a season in 1992's "Larawan."

Truth to tell, she's equally if not more, enthusiastic about her pet causes.

On top of raising her two kids Jacobe and Ayisha, she also busies herself with her advocacies centering on women and children's welfare.

With friends, she formed a foundation called Bahili Hindi Pinoy last year. Due to its mission of gift-giving that extends beyond the Christmas season, the group has conducted medical missions and educational campaigns to places near and far.

As a fundraising project for the foundation, Dawn also put together a CD entitled "Inday."

"It's a compilation of poems written by our National Artists," she explained to become foster followers.

She approached her friends in the industry to lend their voices to the cause. "Gary Valenciano, Charice Pempengco, Arnel Pineda, Ira Calzado, Jericho Rosales, KC Concepcion, even CNN Hero Efren Peñaflorida, helped out."

The voice recordings of top celebrities will be accompanied by animated photos made by "talented students" from the University of Makati and University of Santo Tomas.

She clarified that the DBH is called "Pilay" because "we're just trying to bridge the gap in education. We want the youth to be more familiar with the works of our National Artists."

She hopes to release the collection in time for Christmas. "It will be a wonderful educational gift to our nephews, nieces and godchildren."

Dawn, who also joined the board of advisers of Bamoy Dan recently, is active in I Can Serve Foundation's breastcancer awareness programs, too.

"We still must launch I Can Serve's projects in our district in Davao del Norte," said Dawn. "The foundation will send doctors and their staff to give seminars in barangay health workers, who in turn will pass on the knowledge to indigenous and indigent women."

Working closely with husband Boyfriend Jagdeesan, Dawn intends to make mamitangarans (solo flow in the newly built hospitals in Panabo City.

"It's vital to make health advice available and accessible to women in the hinterlands," she noted.

For Dawn, it's important to get involved in these advocacies as well.

"Like theaters, it feeds my spirit. It nourishes my heart. Also, as a parent, I want my children to grow up aware. to have a sense of social responsibility."

E-mail: bayanisolobaga@hotmail.com

Dawn Zulueta: stylish picture of who is on a true-blue gift.

STARS FOR OTHERS

Mag-iinit ang lamig ng Baguio, P1 MILLION tataginting

Tatamaginting na P1 Million ang inaasahang pirmis na mamon ang ipamimigay ng Premyo Sa Resibo (PSR) sa darating na October 17! Ang PSR Swerte Draw ay gagawin sa SM Baguio kung saan ilang swerteng resibo na naman ang sigurado ang magpapalyo sa town dahil sa inspiring makakamtan.

Lahat ng valid entries mula August 11, 2018 hanggang hatinggabi ng October 15, 2018 ay kasali sa PSR Swerte Draw. Sa pag-text, maaari ring maambilan ng instant P5,000, Mahjong mobile phones at P30 e-load.

Ubod nang dali samak: una, ngalang bongto ang resibo, i-text ang PSR(space)TIN ng 10th space)OR NUMBER(space)AMOUNT ng transaksiyon, i-send sa 9777 for single entry or 9776 for multiple entries. P2.50 lang per entry. Para sa karagdagang detalye, send PSR Help to 9777.

Bukod sa pagbibigay kaagapay sa mga pangangailangan ng mga nanunuri, malaking tulong din ang PSR sa pagsugpo sa ating BIR na matinagyod ang isinasagot at inaayos na pagbabawas. Sa pagsising pagsali, maninisiguro ng ating BIR ang mga maaasahang kawani habang nagbabawas nang tama. Sa maayos na pagbabawas, nasisiguro ang mga produktibo't progresibong pangkalakalan na tulad ng pagpapagawa ng mga daan, pagpapatayo ng mga paaralan at iba pa.

Taga-Baguio o Ana-Cordillera ang sinuwerte ng August 31 PSR Draw. Tulad niya, huwag pahuhuli sa mga pagkakataon nating matamasa, sali na sa PSR. Sakaling ka rin sa hanay, may isasama ka pang maginhawang buhay. Sali lang nang sali, malay mo, swerte mo na!

John Mayer smitten by Georgina Wilson

JOHN MAYER was smitten by Georgina Wilson's charms. When she asked him why he deleted his Twitter account, the heartthrob replied, "You don't need to meet me. Here's my number." Well, it be. "Maybe Mayer" for the weight after model!

Breakup rumor

Someone gets to Jessa Buscemi first. He told me that Jessi has split up with Merrill Soriano. If so, hope it's just a rest-off period. They're so well-suited for each other. Love is a terrible thing to waste.

TV comeback

Debonair is turning high for Willie Revillame's grand TV comeback on "Willing Willie" on TV5 by the third week of October. Debbie will have a segment for the show.

It's still a guessing game as to who Deja's co-host will be, but Vhong Navarro and Georgina Wilson are being eyed for the job. The time, Willie's show will be on prime time instead of noontime.

Whatever time slot you put Willie in, his supine market will surely follow. Majority of the viewer stuff in "Wowowowin" left ABS-CBN to join him, except for his composer Lito Camo because he still has an existing contract with the Kapamilya network. Native is Pill Pesce?

Peggy Krista

Krista Bautista is three months pregnant! After getting married in a Jewish ceremony in the United States, she and husband Jefferson Niño Lim plan to have a Catholic wedding here in Manila this November. Will the couple get Manny Pangilinan as one of their sponsors to finally end all speculations about her rumored Jason dangerous will. Because before she suddenly got hitched!

Writing ownership

Youngest Princess Hall of Famer Jhoni Lana is offering a free writing mentorship for aspiring screenwriters. Applicants must submit their CV and 1- one page essay (in Filipino) on why they want to pursue a career in screenwriting to jhonilanaph@gmail.com. Deadline is on Oct. 15.

PERSONAL: My deepest thanks to dear friends who made my birthday extra special this year: BW Cesar Montano, Aga and Charlene Muhlach, my forever sisters Pops Fernandez, Lani Misalucha, my idol Jaya, Monina Martinez, Bala Blas Quirino, Vivian Sandoval, Ruby Cojuico, Shirley Kuan and Ophelia Lim, Dr. Ike and Mimi Taylor, Tenderish Pradan, Tita Boots Villa, Divit Calderon, Ricky Reyes, Jay Ilustre, Jhoni Lana, Ate Rosalia, my Santa Nicole, Mr. Bo

LEARNING
Editor Chelo Banal Formoso

OCT. 5 is WORLD TEACHERS DAY

Bench-sponsored IIE Serial Reading
"Legend of the Pony's Teens" Chapter 7 / F4

Rethinking the design of public schools

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

(Second of two parts)

SINCE the experts have lost no time in telling us that calamitous climactic events like "Ondoy" are bound to happen more often, both the national and local governments should pay closer attention to the design, construction and maintenance of public schools to reduce their vulnerability to the wrath of nature.

Close to 20 million students were enrolled in public schools in school year 2009-2010, according to the National Statistics Office. That means the educational needs and the lives of so many children are at stake in unsafe schools.

Quite obviously, no one-size-plans can provide protection against all types of hazard. But there should be some practical considerations to guide the Department of Education (DepEd) and the local government units (LGUs) to be able to keep the roll on the lives of children, as educational opportunities and on the school property to a minimum. (I say closer to zero.)

What should be considered in designing new public school infrastructure in a city like Manila? And given the scarcities of school buildings already existing in the city, what can be done to retrofit them to make them hazard-resilient?

For answers, Inquirer sat down with Jose Danilo A. Balites, dean of the College of Architecture who is also a licensed environmental planner, and Nicholas del Castillo, assistant professor of architecture whose specialization is sustainable architecture, both with the University of the Philippines, as well as Jose Joseph T. Fernandez, dean of University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture.

All three agreed that, given the limited resources of LGUs, which are mainly responsible for the physical facilities of public schools, the new school or retrofitting design should be simple, should use local building materials, and should be easy and inexpensive to maintain.

There will always be an area that's going to need a new school and the primary requirement, according to all three architects, is still location, location, location.

According to the "Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction," a World Bank-PHIVOLCS initiative, "the ideal solution to potential school flooding is to identify a site above the most-recent-reported flood elevation."

The NSB Guidance lists basic design parameters for earthquakes, landslides and flood, among other hazards, covering site considerations and modifications, design and construction, precautions for noncontractual components, and precautions for future development.

Prime value

Because public schools require big tracts of land and usually rely on donated property, they usually end up in remote, marginalized areas, especially as rising values and estate is of prime value.

"Kung magagamit mo na iyon ng huwag bigay sa iba kung lugar, kukuin di mo pa gamit 'yun sa first place?" said Del Castillo. "But if you don't have a choice, then elevate the school."

BEYOND FLOOD, P2

MULTISTORY SCHOOL BUILDING DESIGN

BUILD a top floor gym in schools that can double as evacuation centers in times of calamity. It should be equipped with toilets and shower facilities plus alternative sources of power.

It's population, stupid

By Linda B. Bolido

EFFORTS to prevent a major disaster caused by another "Ondoy" or "Pepeng" may be focusing on the wrong field of study.

Rubin S. Rodolfo, M.D., professor emeritus of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of Illinois at Chicago for the United States, thinks demographers, the field pertaining to population, rather than meteorology, the science of weather forecasting, should get more attention in any discussions on disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

"Population must be the priority," says Rodolfo who was in Manila recently for his lectures as a corresponding member (section geology) of the Philippines' National Academy of Sciences and Technology (NAST).

He says, "Ondoy and Pepeng would not have been so bad if the population is not so large." He adds, "People are living in risky areas, like slopes, because all the safe areas are already filled."

Few but extreme

While there will be fewer storms, he warns that they will be more extreme, like last year's eerie major weather events, Ondoy and Pepeng.

The scientist does not think getting the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) expensive modern equipment is the way to prepare for extreme weather events, or at least not the only way.

He says the United States Navy (USN) has better forecasting tools and facilities and anybody, even ordinary citizens, can access its weather reports through the Internet. The Philippines can just tap into free resources available.

Noting that now the USN cannot be 100 percent accurate even with its state-of-the-art equipment, Rodolfo says, instead of being obsessed with high technology, Pasa should be in information-sharing and allowing broad access to data.

He says the bureaucracy sometimes makes it difficult to get the important information to the public needs by complicating the process of access. People are required to submit letter requests to get authorization before data are released.

The scientist says instead of buying expensive gadgets, the Philippines can probably negotiate a matter-to-matter deal and ask the US, for instance, to allow Filipinos to train in its facilities.

Rodolfo wonders if forecasters can learn to read and interpret data having even train to the use of modern equipment in case authorities make good on their "threat" to provide Pagasa the modern tools and facilities it needs.

IT'S POPULATION, P2

Learning the ABCs of life

By Rissi P. Santos

ONCE upon a time, I dreamed of becoming a scientist. That was before I flunked chemistry, and after I watched the old movie "Dr. Jekell and Mr. Hyde."

Who knew what would happen when you mix things in beakers and then drink it?

BWAHAH-HAHA!

After Gemma Cruz Araneta became the first Filipina to be crowned Miss International, I wanted thinking of going into anthropology.

The anthropology graduate was attractive and I thought studying human civilization was cool.

I never thought of becoming an historian, a writer or a teacher, until my high school world history class.

Aaron Blando turned historical events into pages of adventure and romance. Her class was a class for story-telling.

She would ask one girl, "Please tell us the story of Julius Caesar, Cleopatra and Mark Anthony. Begin with how they met..."

Then she would call on her academico to continue the story until it ended with the suicide of the ill-fated lovers.

Ms. Manila helped me realize I was writing my own history (or was it herstory?) at the Philippine Women's University (PWU).

My English composition and literature teachers, Gemi Jota and Lua Pajarillo, encouraged me to read books and join essay contests. In my freshman year, Jota urged me to join the annual essay contest. Reluctantly, I joined on the last minute just to humor her. I was amazed when I won third prize.

In my junior year, Ms Pajarillo began to wean me away from the romance books that high school girls loved to read. (Mills & Boons romances were very popular back then.)

As I readied through Sheila Bunsold's "Dr. Zhivago," it was laborious reading. I stored every big word and wrote its meaning on each page to the book. I finished it in three months.

Ms Pajarillo, who was also the adviser of the high school paper "The Philwomenian," told me to take the qualifying exam for the editorial staff. To my senior year, I was named Features editor.

In the late 1960s, the study of mass media was very popular. I decided to take up communication arts but then was still that PWU would not offer the course. I began to consider taking a general liberal arts course, major in history.

But the communication arts courses opened just before enrollment and there I met instructors who were respected names in their fields: the late entertainment columnist and award-winning writer Joe Quirino, who taught feature writing; veteran broadcast journalist Roy Mabaquiao, who handled radio/television workshops; and Elmo Hugo, who taught radio/TV programming.

My class graduated in the year that Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law—1972. We found ourselves jobless, as all newspapers and magazines, radio and TV stations were shut down.

I worked in a bank for the next 15 years before joining the print media in 1987, when Corazon Aquino became President.

In 2008, I decided to reinvent myself from editor to teacher. It

LEARNING, P2

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

STI named official partner for 10.10.10 Pasig River Run

PROJECTED TO be the largest run ever conceptualized and to be actualized in the world, the 10.10.10 Pasig River Run aims to break the Guinness World Record for the most number of registered participants in a footrace slated Oct. 10. Along with other partners, STI is proud to sponsor this record-breaking event.

ABS-CBN Foundation's Kapit Bisig Para sa Bagong Bayani will stage an epic fun run showcasing a multinovation effort among Filipinos in the past and only of history but of all, relevancy to raise awareness and funds that will help rehabilitate the ailing Pasig River.

As the official provider of registrations for the 10.10.10 Pasig River Run, STI will be at the forefront in tallying the number of participants on the event day. STI has created an official database to ensure timely and accurate delivery of data for the marathon. Event organizers hope to draw over 130,000 registered runners, which will eclipse the current world record of 113,000 held by the 1998 "Run to Remember" race in San Francisco, California. STI will also provide significant logistical assistance to the marathon event.

To date, STI is about to hit more than 5,000 registrants from its Metro Manila campuses alone. STI students, faculty and staff from various STI colleges including Pasay, Caloocan, Marikina-Fairview, Makati, Las Piñas, Novaliches, Marilao, Cubao, Sta. Mesa, Quezon Avenue, Global City, Taft and STI Headquarters are all eagerly showed support for the much-awaited event. Universities and colleges under the Commission on Higher Education are recently pledged 40,000 runners. El Shaddai, one of the most influential religious movements in the country will also field 10,000 participants. Other private corporations, government offices and religious groups are also being wowed to contribute significant numbers of runners to support the advocacy.

Elbert de Guzman, vice president for communications of STI said, "In this fun run, we are not just representing the companies, agencies, or groups we belong to. More than just being people mobilizing for a great cause, we are most of all Filipinos actively stepping up for change. On top of just breaking a world record, let us break away from the passivity that keeps us fickle. Together let's run for one challenging, yet achievable goal that is to save the Pasig River and let the whole world be our proud audience!"

The event will have four start points: the 3k run which starts at the Mall of Asia, the 5k run with its starting point at the Cultural center of the Philippines, the 10k run which begins at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Roxas de Guzman in Makati City and the 21k commercial run exclusive for members of Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to be held at SM Marikina.

All four categories will converge at SM Mall of Asia with a grand, festive celebration.

Philippine Robotics Team to compete in WRO 2010

YOUNG FILIPINO robot warriors are all set to compete the world as members of the 9th Philippine Robotics Olympiad (PRO) were recently proclaimed to comprise the Philippine Robotics Team that would represent the country at the World Robotics Olympiad 2010 (WRO) to be hosted for the first time, here in Manila come November. According to Mylene Abina, national organizer of the PRO, the competition showcases the great potential of the Filipino students. "We also put forward the best minds that we have here. And can be at par with the best of the world," she said. The winning schools for this year competition were Holy Angel University Integrated School Foundation Inc., St. Vergilio College, Cross Christian College, International School-Manila, and Philippine Science High School Eastern Visayas Campus, Leyte. While the winning schools that would comprise the Robotics team for the regular category were Tiaogon High School, Mabuhi Elementary School, De la Salle Lipa Integrated School, Nicolas Vidad Elementary School, Statistics School Inc, Mabuti Science High School, Bellajos Aquino High School, and Pitogo High School. The Philippine Robotics Olympiad, centered on the theme "Robots for Sustainable Development," was organized to help children's lifestyle into that seeks to promote an opportunity to learn more about trends in the field through robotics. It is the only platform in the Philippines, which is also an annual global event that brings together young scientists from all over the world to develop their creativity and problem solving skills through hands-on, engineering, mechatronics, communications and computer technology.

Southville calls on TOPS

SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL School and Colleges once again opens its doors to the TOP Outstanding Performing Students (TOPS) for Academic Year 2011-2012, a scholarship granted to young achievers graduating from public and private high schools all over the country. SISC believes that the country will move towards progress in the midst of global interworking and competition if we nurture the future movers of society, by developing competent and character-laden student achievers who can become future leaders of our nation. Courses granted for scholarship are as follows: BS Mass Communication, BS Medical Lab, BS Business Administration major in Human Resource Management, Marketing Management, Marketing Management with BS Entrepreneurship, Human Resource Management with BS Psychology, BS Information Technology, BS Nursing, BS Psychology, BS Tourism, and Bachelor of Elementary Education with specialization in Special Education (SPED). Competitive examinations will be in November. Look for Sandy de Lucenique at (02)825-2760 / 422-6624, 423-4 local 1150 or e-mail pr@southville.edu.ph for more information. Application forms are available in the Public Relations Office of SISC.

TUA hosts learning sessions

TRINITY UNIVERSITY of Asia's Office of Student Affairs recently hosted the "Students' Rights" learning sessions held at the Mendiel Auditorium in TUA campus. It was attended by TUA faculty and staff who are involved in student discipline and development and the students of graduate school particularly under the Masters of Arts in Education and Doctor of Education program. Guest speaker at the event was lawyer Ulan Sarmiento, a teacher, author of education law books, trustee and corporate secretary of educational institutions and consultant of the Department of Education. Sarmiento emphasized "quality education", "safety and security within school premises" and "duties and obligations of school administrators, faculty and staff " as key points in ensuring students' rights. His involvement in issues affecting education was heightened during his stint as assistant secretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs in the then DECS Secretary Lourdes Quisumbing and as executive director of the Congressional Oversight Committee on education, Senate of the Republic of the Philippines. In the hand of TUA, the DSA headed by the Dean of Students, Dr. Maribel Suarez, distributes a 132-page handbook to every enrolled student for them to be aware of the policies of the school and at the same time know their rights as students. At present, there are 5,400 enrolled in the university.

UC tops Criminology exams for 17th time

THE LONG history of academic excellence in the College of Criminal Justice Education of the University of the Cordilleras is once again cemented with another milestone as it recently topped the nationwide performance in Criminology. Aside from having garnered the highest overall passing rate in June, UC has the distinction of having the highest record of 91.3 percent passing rate in every examination for criminologists by any school with 50 or more examinees, a record achieved in March 2002. Since UC's offering of the BS in Criminology program in 1966, it produced a record of 37 topnotchers all in all through the years, led by the two new topnotchers this year - Christian T. Pascual ranked no. 1 and Janice Joy G. Paul, who is currently no. 4. Before Pascual, UC already produced nine graduates who ranked no. 1 in the examinations, thus bringing the record now to a total of seventeen. To all of these exceptional achievements by the college are credited to the indefatigable leadership of UC dean, Dr. Benjamin S. Maroy-wan and his highly capable and qualified faculty and staff. It is also for these reasons why the Criminology program of UC has been awarded as Center of Excellence by the Commission on Higher Education in October of 2008, and consequently, the University of the Cordilleras has been dubbed the "Best Criminology School in the Country."

CEU opens new vision and eye care center

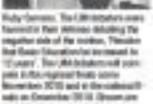
Dean Cerdeno Executive Director Dr. Nilda Pastolero Chief from right) with Trustee/CHED Board of Governors chair Dr. Jesse Villarin, CEU executive vice president Dr. Ricardo de Leon, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Neil Dr. Timothy Crook, Brian Holden Vision Institute and Vision Co-operative Research associate director of research, and development Dr. Erik Papas. CEU School of Optometry dean Dr. Jessica F. Sore, and PRC Board of Optometry member Dr. Vivian Sandoval.

SSH students awarded by ICAS

Prof. Mike Bahoran, and Maggie Garcia. Singapore School Mathematics and Science giving students the best of possible education not only in Mathematics, but in all other core and foundation subjects that they offer.

Westfields' Korean and Chinese festivals

UPH debaters hailed champions in contest



Rudy Gerona. The UPH debaters were honored for their victories including the negative side of the motion, "Resolve that Asian Values should be rewarded in 12 years". The UPH debaters will participate in the regional finals slate November 2010 and in the national finals on December 2010. Shown are the UPH debaters Angelo Ocampo, Shalimar Soampo, Jay Arrogles and Christian Lloyd Espinosa.

UPH 9th Placer receives award from PRC

The Lyceum-Philippine University-Batangas (LPU-B) as it Placed 2010 Bachelor of Science major in Nursing graduate, recently received a plaque of recognition as one of the Achievement Awardees as 9th placer in the July 2010 nurse licensure examination given by Professional Regulation Commission Board of Nursing. The awarding took place during the 44th Gathering anniversary of LPU-B's founder Dr. Nilda Pastolero Chief from right) with Trustee/CHED Board of Governors chair Dr. Jesse Villarin, CEU executive vice president Dr. Ricardo de Leon, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Neil Dr. Timothy Crook, Brian Holden Vision Institute and Vision Co-operative Research associate director of research, and development Dr. Erik Papas. CEU School of Optometry dean Dr. Jessica F. Sore, and PRC Board of Optometry member Dr. Vivian Sandoval.

An insider's view of Google

(Last of two parts)

CHRIS FELICIANO, an honors graduate of the Ateneo de Manila High School, is currently studying at Columbia University in New York. Two months ago, his business interest at the Financial Expo Ateneo attracted Google.

Last week, we discussed Chris' budding career. Now we take an insider's look at what makes Google the most desirable company in the world to work for.

Legendary benefits

"As far as salary ranges go, Google is around the 75th percentile, which is good, but not great," Chris says. "However, Google makes up for it by always ranking top in benefits, and that's what makes employees should never be more than 100 meters away from food. Micro-kitchens can be found on every floor in all the buildings. Healthy snacks, cereal, yogurt, beverages, fruits and nuts are available all day.

"Google churches living Googlers to death from all over the Bay Area and back at any given time. Generally, pedi-and-go bikes are scattered around campus for easy mobility."

In today's world where, despite record unemployment, employee turnover is high, it is worth studying what the best companies do to retain employees. Besides Google, other companies are leapfrog house mondo, and get the most out of them. Evidently, in Google, substance matters infinitely more than eight-component suites.

For actual people who prefer working in cities and jeans rather than coat and tie, the direct code to perfect "Free up time," Chris says. "The only rule: Don't go to work naked."

"Hours are flexible. It doesn't matter when you arrive or leave, as long as you get the job done," no one hears nasty employees.

"Nerds through, most people come to work at the break of dawn and leave as late as possible," Chris says, "because there's no stimuli to do after work! There are many different shows, music, activities and sports classes you can sign up for. You can avail the tech-driven staff, who will do the ultimate Filipino-style play (family beach volleyball, do laps in the almost endless swimming pools with full-size lifeguards. If something is more your thing, there are tons of massage rooms and wellness programs, just to name a few.

"By the way, did I mention that everything's all free?"

No jerks

But for Chris, the best perks were the people: "I met a diamond when I was still in high school, at Google, I would run into the smartest people I would ever meet," he says. "Now I'm skeptical that *I would ever see another group that's smarter.* What struck me the most was not just their intellectual competence: I knew these guys must be brilliant to be at Google, but how. Rather, it was how helpful and kind-hearted everybody was. Kindly intelligence and ego go hand-in-hand, but here the latter took a back seat. There was so much respect for one another that everybody was willing to help each other out. I never ran into a jerk."

Chris met several Filipinos at Google. "One, an intern also finished high school back home, then migrated to Canada. He is now based in Toronto. I first met him at the café. A quick glance at his food (steak and white rice) made me cross an eyebrow. It was such a Pinoy meal.

"Google is very diverse, so you're bound to find Filipinos in every line of work—software engineer, marketing analyst, *team chef, or shuttle driver,*" Chris says. "Just like all other nationalities, Filipinos are quickly welcomed into the Google family."

Lessons learned

Chris' internship was so successful that, after another rigorous screening process, Google offered him a job two weeks ago. He is "99 percent sure" he will work there after graduation next year.

What advice does he have for Filipinos who want to follow in his footsteps?

• Dream big and make it happen. "Nobody here sees life, or if you see action about that dream, do everything to turn it into reality. Work hard and pray harder, and you'll achieve things beyond anything you can possibly imagine. People want for the perfect moment ... now is the perfect moment. It's never too late or too early to follow your dreams."

• Stay true to yourself and your values. Chris quotes Judy Garland, "Be a first rate version of yourself, not a second-rate version of someone else!" He says, "People tend to put pressure on themselves to emulate the cool kid on the block, oblivious that they have so much to offer this world that nobody else can. Anyone! Shine as who you are! Here in the US, I have been exposed to so many bad influences that it remains a tempting regrette it to give pressure. But I just stick to my guns; I know what's good and bad for me, and I'm thankful for how my family and education have instilled in me the values to make it this far."

• Learn from past failures or mistakes. "Everything happens for a reason, and everything works out for the best," Chris says. "Keep an open mind and welcome detractors from plans or moments in hours and opportunities to

SUCCESS: A problem the Google way: 6 hands-on's and play

grow. After being rejected over 20 times in the past, I felt inconsolable at first. But I took the rejections to stride, never gave up, put my trust in God and, before I knew it, I got the best job in the world."

• Appreciate God's blessings. "I'm extremely fortunate," Chris says, "to be given this opportunity to work for such an unbelievable company, as well as to have the everyday gift I take for granted. At the Googleplex, employees are so spoiled and it's easy to get spoiled. But I take the time to step back and just give thanks to the God for it all."

E-mail the author at blazbo@gmail.com

Learning the ABCs of life

From page B1

was time to give back but for the benefit of the next generation.

I enrolled in a Master of Arts in English Language and Literature Teaching course at the Ateneo de Manila University. Another teacher gave a certain depth and meaning to literature.

Professor Ada J. Lorido taught English 217: Reading Literature: Using Literary criticism, she taught us to read familiar selections with "new" eyes.

I have always loved Sabers' First and his poem "The Road not Taken." For the longest time, I thought the poem meant the speaker made his choice and took one road to the very end.

Using deconstructive criticism, I found new meaning in Frost's poem. It made me realize that our life choices and experiences inevitably changed our self-identity.

With a much wiser, the journey of life, we made choices and, with each choice, we uncovered ourselves and adapted to survive.

For this examination, I have my teachers to thank. Maraming salamat po!

Ateneans are Asian Debate champs

From page B9

award-winning high school debaters. The high school junior says he enjoys the competitive nature of debating and the intellectual exchange that forces people to think on their feet.

Pablo's oldest brother, Joaquin, won the national championship for high school debate in 2003 for the Philippine Science High School. He has inspired Pablo, a sophomore, to become a debater as well.

Aaron, the eldest of three children, is the first debater in his family. He started joining debates at 13 as a grade-school student at the Ateneo Grade School. Also a sophomore, Aaron says he likes debating because he loves competition and empowering himself in the process.

But Simon says he liked the tournaments for more than just the competition, as he had the chance to meet people from other countries who had different styles of debating.

Socrates says they felt more confident this year and knew they would do well.

Pablo recalls that losing in the finals seemed unreal and he did not even remember how he got there. But he says he believes he had to do his best so he was not only representing Ateneo but the Philippines, too. He says he had to live up to expectations.

UST holds 12th National Campus Journalism Fellowship

THE SAGITTARIAN, the 82-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold its 12th (UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship) Oct. 19-20, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex auditorium, UST, España, Manila.

The annual three-day workshop includes seminars on news, sports, opinion-editorial writing, features, culture and lifestyle, Philippine setting, investigative journalism, photography, cartooning and layouting.

The workshop is open to campus journalists, high school journalists and media practitioners, campus press advisers and students.

Invited lecturers include Senior Inquirer.net columnist Conrado de Quiros, Manila Bulletin reporter Jerry Esplanada, Philippine Star sports columnist Ariel Ahmed "Atoi" delos Reyes (Philippine Daily Inquirer cartoonist).

Visit the Varsitarian office at Room 105, Tan Yan Kee Student Center, UST, España, Manila, or e-mail Editor in Chief Ms. Ayen Acosta at 09064131, loc. 8233 (You may also call Lester G. Batistes, 0905-6684447; Danube C. Lubang, 0915-2224303; or Alexis Mica C. Villaruel Jr., 0915-2052965.

Contest for new UPAA anthem launched

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) has launched a contest for a new anthem.

Participants must set to music Atty. Ed Aguirre's lyrics and submit a lyrics "UPAA Hymn" Abad.

Deadline for submission of entries is Nov. 30.

Entries should be original and unpublished.

The winner, to be announced Dec. 10, will receive P50,000 from UPAA and his sound-like Isabela to Boracay courtesy of Sear.

Entries should be sent to UP Bahay ng Alumni, Room 211, Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City 1101. Call 9286868 and 711 or 0917-8672888, e-mail upalumni@yahoo.com.ph.

It's population ...

From page B9

Francisco can be cited is a **continent that will require** them to work for two years in the country for every year of foreign training, he suggests.

But, whatever the country decides to do, Rodolfo stresses that it has to prepare for "economic warfare" ahead and address the issue of population growth.

He says scientists of people are shrinking the land. Among other things, overdevelopment of groundwater because of the growing population is causing subsidence—the earth's surface shifting downward in one level.

One result of this is the increasing intrusion of saltwater into people's water sources.

Holistic solutions

The scientist also emphasizes that solutions must be holistic, says the professor, Rodolfo says. "One rule is

scientists in your country do just one thing. There will be unanticipated results, unexpected consequences."

The solution to one problem may raise other issues.

"There will always be multiple consequences so we have to be ready to deal with these," he says.

This is why Rodolfo says suggestions to make the Laguna Lake a possible source for future Manila should be studied carefully.

One concerning, he points out that the lake is heavily polluted from agricultural and industrial chemicals that have been allowed to flow into the body of water.

He suggests instead the use of rainwater as a solution to the problem like this year's severe shortage despite last year's heavy rainfall brought by October and Peping.

Technology can be developed to store rain water and improve ground water storage. He cites as an example the practice in Bermuda, which gets very little rain. Roofs are built to collect rain water for use by households later.

Rethinking the design of public schools

From page B1

"The resurrection of a non hazard-resilient school costs only 8 percent more than a school built to withstand a 6-degree tremor," said the WB Guidance. "But you have to go hand-in-hand to benefit from the benefits of a joint UNDP-Government of Ukraine (Undeki) Dudki program.

It an is hazard and densely populated area like Marikina, the way to go is to build multi-storey schools, according to the architects.

According to Ed Castillo, not just schools but everything—businesses, corporate and government offices, shops, homes—would, ensure does have to be located in vertical development.

Multiple floors

"We should disabuse ourselves of the notion that multi-family you still own a house and a lot. With the way our population is growing, we won't have enough land. High rises are the solution. We should take a look at Singapore. It is in Digital Metro Manila but it has 7,000 hectares of space open to 6 million people. Its low-flowing water ways, etc."

A multi-storey school would no doubt be more expensive to construct. "Once you go three floors, your foundation changes," said Fernando. "Just the government should make that investment."

To safeguard against earthquakes—and this is very important for Marikina—the new schools—buildings with more than one story should be built with each floor having the same capacity to resist lateral forces, WB Guidance states. "It compromises of damage the multi-storey school buildings in the early collapse. This means because the lateral stiffness at these strength of one story typically the ground level, it less than that of the upper stories."

As for the school layout, different options are available, back to the example of our bahay na bato where we build our livable areas on the upper floors and the ground floor becomes a multipurpose area."

Evacuation agreed. The government could also use as the playground and area for general assembly and other school-wide activities. "That's also where you can have school functions that are open to the community."

The second floor would be for administrative offices, the library, the laboratory and the classrooms. More classrooms on the third floor. The highest floor could be a gymnasium that would double as a multi-purpose hall if needed.

"If you put the auditorium or gym on the top floor, it will again be more expensive," said Fernandez. "but it's a very logical solution to the emergency evacuation problem."

He also suggested converting sidewalks into covered walkways with concrete roofing. In times of flooding, he said, the roof could be used as the walk-way.

One more thing, why do they keep using new land even for the roof?" he asked. "Every time a typhoon comes with strong winds, the roofing is blown away. Why not a life-saving deck roof?

Retrofitting schools

Existing public schools can be retrofitted in earthquake areas, but the success of such a decision will depend on political will, existing infrastructure, technical capacity, and available resources, according to the WB Guidance.

Evacuation should be given to those schools at greater risk, and the community should be involved throughout the process.

In Marikina, Fernando went on, there are 54 schools and almost 5,800 displaced families after Ondoy just the Depdd Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office Rapid Disaster Assessment Report.

Dr. Eduardo Lopez, Depdd Manila area division superintendent, said the schools became the river—Malanday, Nangka, Concepcion Integrated, St. Barnabas—were the hardest hit. He admitted that because the schools were used as evacuation centers. "There were many concerns that last weekend of the last one."

He meant the property damage and vandalism that occurred as the schools while the evacuees were being housed there.

Schools as evacuation sites

Instead of looking at schools as evacuation centers, said Bernardo, UGD's disaster coordinator, the public sees rapid as evacuation camps in some sense, these facilities are used as information (cockpit).

Lopez said he had suggested to the Marikina city government that the infrastructure and repair of the schools be built to serve and genius to make them serviceable as emergency shelters.

Del Castillo said schools should not be on top of mind as evacuation sites in times of disasters. Schools are for teaching and learning and should be kept safe and sound for such purposes.

"We've always had to contend with flooding and yet we have not learned, we have not instituted effective solutions," he said. "Floodings, it seems, stays on the front burner.

Indeed, Filipinos have been so conditioned to think of schools as evacuation sites in times of disaster that the government has now developed alternative locations for temporary evacuation sites.

Gyms, basketball courts and other sports arenas were the best evacuation sites, said Del Castillo. Unlike classrooms, they had large spaces where there was no need to store furniture.

But given the present situation, how then to design schools that can double as evacuation sites?

"Well, it comes to basement to start with," said Silvestre.

Accessibility was important, he added. Obviously, if the school was going to be used as an evacuation center, the movement of evacuees to and from the site should be unhindered.

And after the people had, by some miracle, reached the site, the school should then be accessible enough for relief goods to be brought in for evacuees and also to be able to accommodate, if needed, people who needed medical care.

"If school's quadrangle becomes useful when the roads are not passable and you have to bring in relief goods in choppers," Silvestre pointed out.

The other thing to consider is the availability of utilities. The site should be assured of water distribution, sewage, waste disposal and electricity.

They echoed that it intended to have input in an emergency the centers should have facilities for emergencies, such as generator sets or alternative sources of power and telecommunications. Units, drainage and waste disposal facilities are very important for health concerns," Silvestre said.

A gym with bleachers was better in case could get the people off the floor and the dampness of the floor could be avoided, he added. "You don't design a gym without designing the diagnostic toilets and showers, which are needed in the aftermath."

These facilities should be designed "so they can handle heavy volumes; essentially, they should be over-designed," he said. They should have instructional features that were designed for heavy use, low maintenance, highly durable, something that people would not sell or loot.

With the magnitude of devastation and death brought by Ondoy to ensure for super-powdose and inadequate response will be acceptable from both national and local governments in any future natural disasters. The first focus should be the schools.

bench/ | INQUIRER IN EDUCATION | WOW IFRA

LEGEND OF THE PONY'S TEARS

Chapter 7: The Secret Place

(THE STORY SO FAR... After running away from the horse trader, the little pony almost drowns in a river. The pony manages to pull himself out of the river, but he is sad and devastated. Little Wolf finds the pony and tends to his injuries. The boy offers to take the pony to a safe place where he can bide.)

Story by Mary Mabee
Illustrated by Vinci Wallace

THE LITTLE pony shut out the words of the old, bitter horse. He knew in his heart that he could trust the small human. After all, the boy had helped him, hadn't he? The little pony weighed softly and touched his hand to let Little Wolf know that he trusted him.

"Follow me," Little Wolf said to the pony. "The place is not very far."

Little Wolf led the way to the secret place. The little pony followed behind him. As they traveled along, Little Wolf talked to the pony.

"There is plenty of good grass and other plants to eat here," Little Wolf said. "There is never water to drink, too. The mountains will provide for you." The boy showed the pony where to get the best grass and which plants were good to eat. "And in the harvest season, there are apples on these trees," Little Wolf said, pointing out the apple trees. "Do you like apples?"

The boy led the pony to the top of the rocky ridge. Little Wolf stopped and gestured for the pony to halt. "Look," he said. "The secret place."

The little pony looked down and saw the small clearing. He tore it up when he saw the green grass. It reminded him of the grass in the field of his home. He bet that the grass would taste just as sweet. The little pony moved his head in the direction of the boy. The secret place was beautiful! The pony and the boy walked down the ridge and into the clearing.

"You can stay here as long as you want," Little Wolf told the pony. "No one knows of this place. No one will find you here."

The pony looked at the boy. His eyes communicated his thanks. "You will not be lonely here," Little Wolf continued. "There are many animals and birds that live in this place. If you do not make them or you to hurt them, they will be your friends."

The little pony liked that. He didn't like to be alone.

Little Wolf sat down beside the waterfall. He took out a flute and started playing. The pony picked up his head at the strange sound. He had never heard anything like it!

The pony liked all the music that the boy made. It was sad and beautiful, all at the same time. Somehow it made the pony feel better.

After Little Wolf finished playing his flute, he used the pony ear by a few moments to communicate to him. For the first time since he was taken away from his home, the pony felt at peace.

Presently Little Wolf broke the spell. "Look over there, pony," Little Wolf said and pointed to a small bird. "There's a nest. Would you like to have a story about the nest?"

The boy tried to tell the story but the way it was told to him. "Now the little wren is the messenger of the birds," Little Wolf began. "It is a very busy bird and takes care of everything. The wren goes to each meeting. The little bird goes round to every house in the real forest to gather news. That is how news gets back to the bird's nest and reports all that she has learned."

The little pony listened with interest as Little Wolf's story. He had never heard such a tale before.

"What a new baby is born," the boy continued, "the wren tells me if it is a hen child or a girl child. Then it flies back to tell the bird council. If the baby is a boy, the bird sing a masculine song. Alas," the little boy "the whistle of an arrow! The birds know that when the boy is old enough, he will leave them with his bluegun and arrows."

"But if the baby is a girl, the birds in the council are happy and sing joyously.

"Thanks!" the birds sing. "The sound of a gender!" The birds know that when the girl is old enough, she will have the same news and pass it on to her family. Then the birds will be able to pick up the many pieces of news that she knows before."

The little pony enjoyed the boy's story very much, but he was starting to get very tired. The pony's eyes began to droop.

"You must rest now. You need to get your strength back," Little Wolf said. "I will leave you. But you don't have to worry; no one will find you here. You will be safe if you stay near this clearing."

Little Wolf picked up his flute and turned around to leave. "I must go," the boy said. "My mother will worry if I am gone too long. Goodbye, friend."

The little pony's heart sank. Has his friend saying goodbye to him forever?

Next Time: The Cougar

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The eagle, soaring glory

EAGLES HAVE been symbols of warriors, power and glory for centuries. The Persians, the Roman legions, Poland, Russia, the Holy Roman Empire and the Great Army of Napoleon I all invented the guidon of imperial eagles.

THE BALD eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is a bird of prey that is revered for some cultures.

White-headed sea eagles have been on the skies for the past 12 million years. Symbol of nobility, power and strength, and, the temperate-land eagle, became the national symbol of the United States.

In legend, fish eagles carried the thunder bolt of Zeus. All birds of prey represented the sun for the people of Babylon, but for Persians, only the eagle could look straight into the sun without being blinded by it. The ancient Persians believed the eagle was the only bird to live in the midst with gods and immortals. While most Native American cultures consider eagles as the harbingers of the battle eagle that adorn their headdresses and are used in ceremonies.

Eagles are at the top of the food chain, which means they have no natural predator.

Their presence, absence or well being indicates the health of the ecosystem or environment they thrive in, earning them the name of an "indicator species." He means they tend to prey on sick, injured or dead animals, they help clean the environment.

Much so, too, used the eagle for its excellent eyesight, as much as the high number of light-sensitive cells on the bird's retina. These allowed the eagles to double the power of human vision, the pony felt at peace.

Presently Little Wolf broke the spell. "Look over there, pony," Little Wolf said and pointed to a small bird. "There's a nest. Would you like to hear a story about the nest?"

The boy tried to tell the story but the way it was told to him. "Now the little wren is the messenger of the birds," Little Wolf began. "It is a very busy bird and takes care of everything. The wren goes to each meeting. The little bird goes round to every

Activity guide

Reading comprehension

>> Write chapter Little Wolf tells the pony a story about the wren. Do some research on the kinds of birds in that can be found in your geographic area. Make a list of different birds of your area and write a brief description of each one. Make a compilation of drawings or colored pictures of these birds.

>> Illustrate with Art a video, make up a brief story based on one of the birds in the area. Then tell your story to another class or group.

Newspaper connection

>> In Chapter 7, Little Wolf takes the pony to a "secret place." Look in the

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Special treat for teachers

GLOBAL CITY Innovative College (GCIC), with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd) and Muntinlupa Foundation Inc. (MFI), sponsors the World Teachers Day Celebration today, 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m., at SMMall of Asia.

GCIC has lined up interschool contests for students and teachers in 31 public and private schools in the cities of Makati, Pasig, Pasay, Muntinlupa, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas and Taguig.

Celebration activities include exhibit of entries in poster making contest in English and Filipino, Isosiglot Poster Making and audio-visual presentation contests, rock-off challenge for teachers, talent show, singing party, singing duets and parodies for the Search for School Ambassadors of Edutainment.

Winners will get trophies, medals and certificates.

Education Secretary Bro. Armin A. Luistro, FSC, CHED chair Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, and Metrobank Foundation Inc. president Aurora M. Soliongco will give inspirational messages. Metrobank Foundation's 2011 search for Outstanding Teachers of the Philippines will be launched.

WE ARE the Champions! From left: Pebbs, Sorians and Sison

Ateneans are Asian Debate champs

VINCENT Raphael G. Soriano, Javier Ma. R. Pebbs and Jose Antonio T. Sison were named grand champions in the Second Asian Schools Debates Championships (AsDC) held recently at De La Salle University.

Over 200 debaters participated in the competition. The event was attended by high school students and adjudicators from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Korea, China, Singapore and India.

Participants competed in seven preliminary rounds. The top 16 teams moved on to the elimination rounds. A team had to win to move to the next level.

Soriano, Pebbs and Sison were pitted against South Korea's Daejeon Foreign Languages School team (Hwang Jin-hee and Jeon Yoo, recognized as the best speaker in Asia. The Ateneans took the affirmative side of the motion. "This house believes that governments should not own any media companies."

Sison focused on the public's right to information, and how governments could control media to hide things. Pebbs discussed discourse and plurality of opinion among people, and the benefits of making the media a lucrative market. Soriano summarized the affirmative side by discussing autocracy of and the creation of incentives for free press. Sison was named best speaker in the finals.

Three other Ateneans received individual awards for being among the 10 best speakers in Asia. Joseph Vincent A. Pizarro, Emilio Enrique E. Claudio, and Miguel G. Ramirez were third, fifth and seventh, respectively.

Soriano is the youngest of three children. His siblings were also

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GOLDEN-VOICED ENSEMBLE
Christian Harvest Academy choir won the gold in the Small Ensemble category during the recent Accelerated Christian Education International Student Convention in Kentucky, United States. The winning group is composed of (front row, from left) Elyza Francheska Gonzales, Marian Bernice Bautista, Anna Christine Magbanua, Dr. Ellen Gonzales (choir coordinator), Pastor Joseph Pineda, George Christian Gonzaga, Abigail David Magbanua, Ron Josef de Asis, John Rupert del Barrio, Ernesto Rolando Dy-ondoy and Dan David Lanadia.